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Academic integrity in the age of speed and screens

SAHANA PRASAD

In India's higher education system, success is often measured by speed—for both faculty and students. Finishing syllabi quickly, scoring high in competitive examinations, publishing early, and graduating on time. From crowded classrooms and high-stakes entrance tests to digitally monitored assessments and AI-assisted assignments, students today navigate an academic environment shaped by pressure and performance.

In this landscape, the question is no longer whether technology has transformed education, but whether the values that sustain learning are keeping pace.

Did you use Gen AI to submit an assignment? It's fine, as long as it was done within the deadline! But is it really fine? Classrooms today are shaped as much by screens and speed as by books and teachers. Digital tools have expanded access to knowledge and made learning more efficient.

At the same time, they have blurred the boundary between ethical learning and dishonest practice, making academic integrity one of the most urgent concerns in education today. When answers are available easily, it's tempting to let go of the hard work.

Academic integrity is often discussed as a stu-



AI-GENERATED IMAGE FOR REPRESENTATION

dent issue — rules against cheating, plagiarism, or the misuse of artificial intelligence. This narrow framing misses a larger reality. Integrity in education is a shared responsibility among students, faculty, and institutions.

As Dr Joseph T V, Dean of Sciences at CHRIST (Deemed to be University), observes, “Academic integrity is an important issue in education today, and it is not just the responsibility of students. Faculty and students both play a role in main-

taining ethical standards. Although technology, especially artificial intelligence, has made learning more convenient, it has also made dishonest practices easier.” He also points to the pressure for quick results, which can push individuals toward unethical choices.

When used responsibly, artificial intelligence can enhance understanding, creativity, and exploration. When used unethically, it can replace genuine effort with automated output. The ease with which assignments can now be generated has made shortcuts more tempting, particularly in an academic culture that prioritises grades, rankings, and rapid completion over depth of learning.

For students, academic integrity is not merely about following rules. Honest work strengthens critical thinking, problem-solving ability, and confidence in one's own understanding. Shortcuts may produce immediate outcomes, but they weaken learning and leave students ill-prepared for real intellectual and professional challenges. Over time, this erosion affects not only individuals but the credibility of education itself.

Faculty members play an equally important role in shaping how integrity is understood and practised. Clear expectations, transparent assessment methods, and consistent responses

to violations signal that ethical standards matter. Equally important is how these standards are communicated. When integrity is presented as central to intellectual and professional development rather than as a threat of punishment, students are more likely to internalise its value.

In the race for measurable outcomes, the deeper purpose of education is often overshadowed. Academic success is increasingly defined by marks, rankings, and credentials rather than by understanding or growth.

“Academic success has meaning only when it is grounded in integrity. Knowledge gained through honesty shapes not only skilled minds but also responsible individuals. Without integrity, education loses its true purpose,” says Dr Baishali Garai, Programme Director for Basic Sciences at the School of Computer Science and Engineering, R V University. Her words resonate far beyond the classroom.

One of the greatest challenges facing educators today is helping students view integrity as a value rather than merely as an inconvenience. In a world that rewards efficiency and immediacy, ethical lapses are often rationalised as practical responses to pressure. Addressing this mindset requires more than surveillance tools or stricter penalties. It calls for dialogue,

mentorship, and learning designs that encourage originality, reflection, and meaningful application.

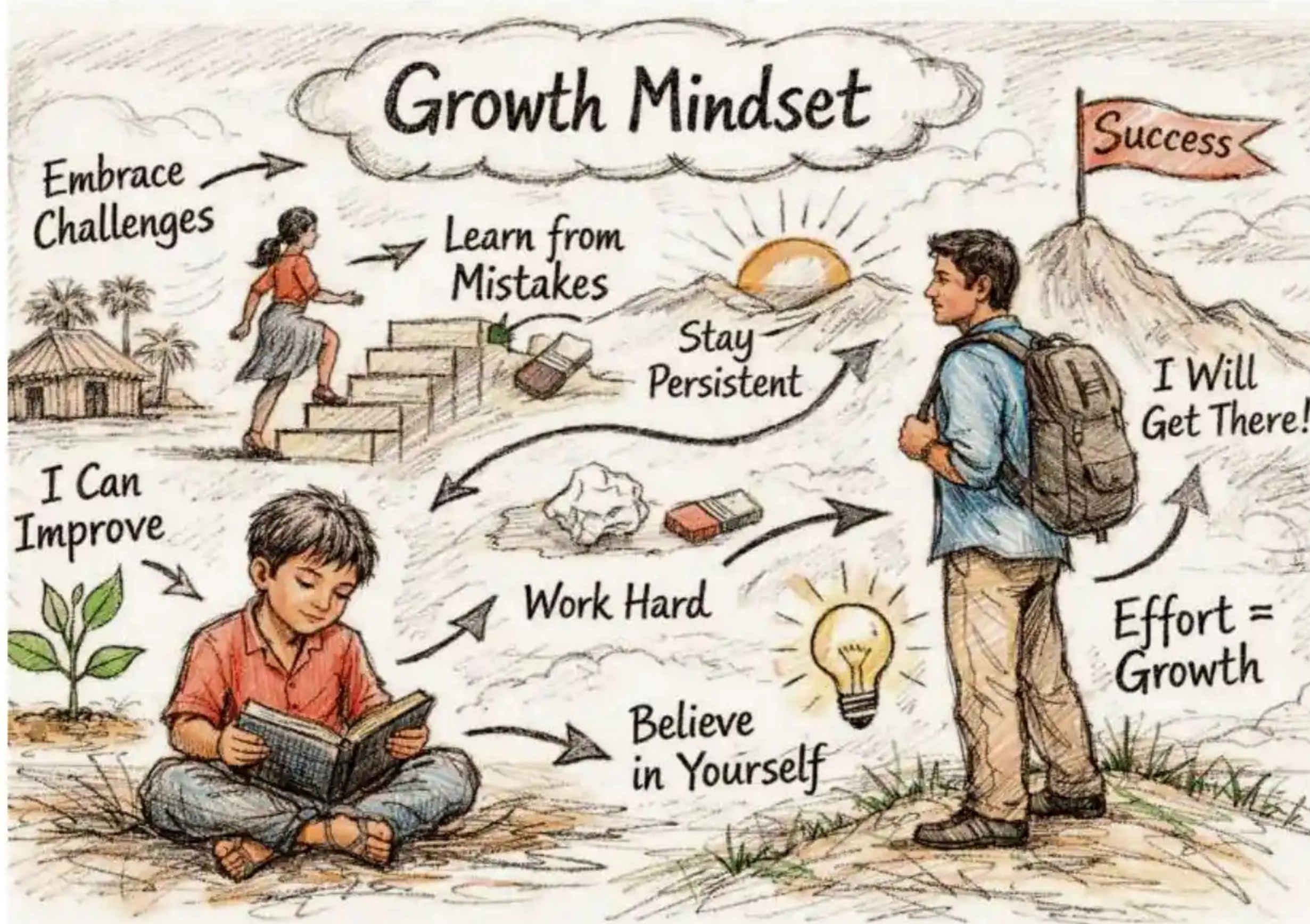
Institutions, too, play a critical role. Academic integrity must be embedded into curricula, assessment design, and institutional culture. Assignments that demand analysis, interpretation, and personal engagement are less vulnerable to misconduct than those that reward repetition. Support systems that address stress, time management, and skill gaps can further reduce the conditions that lead to unethical behaviour.

At its core, academic integrity is about trust — between students and teachers, institutions and society, and education and the professions it serves. When integrity is compromised, that trust erodes. Degrees lose credibility, research loses reliability, and education risks becoming transactional rather than transformative.

In an age defined by rapid technological change and constant pressure to perform, academic integrity remains a steady anchor. When students and faculty uphold it together, classrooms become spaces of respect and genuine learning. Education then fulfils its true purpose — not merely producing results, but shaping judgment, responsibility, and character.
(The author is an academic)

A growth mindset will take you places

A fixed mindset draws boundaries for us and puts a cap on what we can accomplish, writes Vijay Prakash Srivastava



AI-GENERATED IMAGE FOR REPRESENTATION

The genesis of our actions lies in our thinking. One thinks that doing an MBA will be better for him, then evaluates this thought from different angles before exploring the options. One may face multiple opportunities, but if the thought process says none work, those opportunities will have no meaning for this person. Our thinking, rather than our way of thinking, leads to what we do or accomplish.

Of all the species on this earth, only humans have the opportunity to enrol at a learning institute and become empowered through education. Whatever progress we see around us was thought of and planned by somebody. Somebody somewhere came up with a particular idea and worked on it. A few failed ini-

tially but later became successful; a few ideas didn't work at all, and a few proved successful on the first try.

We first think, then plan, and then execute. But not everything we think of takes the form of action. This may be due to lethargy, procrastination or the way we prioritise things. Also, we are not able to, or choose not to, work on everything we think of.

Pitfalls of limited thinking

The biggest problem is when we are limited by our thinking. We either think small or nip in the bud many of the ideas that come to our minds. This may also happen to the ideas put forth by others before us. Either we are sceptical about the practicality of the idea or doubt our capability to convert it into reality.

Of course, not everything that we think or is suggested to us is worth implementing. However, many things that can be accomplished don't happen because of our limited thinking, which, in most cases, stems from a fixed mindset.

A fixed mindset always thinks in terms of boundaries. For example, a person with a fixed mindset may think she can never be good at studying or travel alone. Persons with such a mindset are usually fearful, don't want to try new things and prefer to follow a straight-line path. Based on their reasoning, they consider it the appropriate choice.

On the face of it, there is nothing right or wrong about the choice. Every individual has the freedom to follow their thinking if it does not hurt anybody or doesn't encroach on someone else's

territory. Having a fixed mindset does not imply an inferiority complex. Such a person may think that she already has everything needed to succeed in the world, and she doesn't have to try hard.

Possibilities and potential

Now, let us think in terms of human potential and possibilities. Various definitions of success have been given. Many of these say that success means realising one's full potential. All of us are full of potential. However, in most cases, we fail to realise this potential because we are besotted with a fixed mindset and limited thinking.

On the opposite side of a fixed mindset is a growth mindset, which enables us to think by breaking boundaries. A growth mindset is one that is ready to try new things, explore possibilities, and make the most of opportunities. It is helpful in creating new opportunities. Creating opportunities is highly crucial in today's competitive world, as there are already too many claimants for existing opportunities. Working with a fixed mindset will curb our ability to create opportunities.

For students, it matters a lot as they are in their formative years. At your institute, you normally form a homogeneous group.

All the students in a class receive the same education, and their social and economic backgrounds may not differ much. Here, what is the differentiating factor for doing better and accomplishing more? Necessarily, it involves developing a growth mindset, which will help you realise your potential.

To develop a growth mindset, you first need to be true to yourself. Be sincere in everything you do and keep the promises you make to yourself. You have a growth

mindset when you see challenges as learning opportunities. We grow when we face challenges. People with a growth mindset are self-motivated. It is good to be inspired by others.

But then it is not always necessary to seek approval and validation from others. The path you choose must be your own, so the validation and acceptance should come from within. Keeping away the fear of failure or fear of not doing well, one must try to do their best. Failures are a part of life, teaching us to avoid mistakes and to do better.

Attitude matters

Research shows that characteristics such as persistent effort and a 'can-do' attitude are crucial to success, while a fixed mindset may be a hindrance. One may start with a small goal; however, a growth mindset will encourage her to pursue higher goals one after another. As the clichéd, but practical saying goes, one success leads to another.

You will find people who are not highly talented but who have achieved more in their studies, careers, and satisfaction, sometimes without resources. It is a growth mindset that has driven them to derive more from the world and life.

Developing a growth mindset isn't difficult. Evaluate your attitude and make amends wherever necessary. Work on your skills and capabilities.

Look at the opportunities with determination to overcome limitations. This will enable you to become better than what you are and do more than what you have been doing. Your confidence will also get a boost.

(The author is a banking and human resources professional)

Planning your professional journey

MAULLIKA SHARMA

Freshers entering today's workplace face a dizzying mix of expectations, options, change and uncertainty. Many start their careers with an "I'll see how it goes" attitude, drifting along. And one year into the job, they want to change their job to earn more, but have no idea what kind of job they would like and whether their current job, or the next one, is really 'adding value' to them as professionals.

This is risky in a fast-moving job market and a world full of uncertainties. And it often leaves people feeling overwhelmed, stuck, helpless, and anxious. The most successful early-career professionals don't just work hard—they work with direction. They craft a compelling vision, translate it into SMART goals, and cultivate a growth mindset that keeps them learning and moving forward. So how do you start?

Start with a clear vision

Imagine planning a holiday without a destination in mind. What would you pack, budget or even visualise? Careers work the same way. A vision isn't a fuzzy dream—it's a crisp, personal picture of:

- Who do you want to become?
- What impact do you want to have?
- What values do you want your work to reflect?

It is like your personal compass, guiding your daily choices and keeping you grounded when things get noisy. Without it, you react to circumstances, feel scattered or stuck, and drift from role to role. With it, you can prioritise and say "no" to distractions and build resilience when challenges hit.

Make your vision practical by finding your Ikigai, i.e. the intersection of what you love, what you're good at, what the world needs, and what you can be paid for. Let this be the reason for you to wake up every morning. When your plans exist within your ikigai, you stay motivated, increase your odds of success,

contribute where it matters, and sustain yourself better. Early in your career, you may struggle to find your ikigai—that's normal. Use it as a compass for experiments, internships, projects, and learning choices that gradually move you toward that sweet spot.

Gain traction with your vision using SMART goals

SMART — Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound — goals help transform wishful thinking into reality.

- Choose a goal area (e.g., "become proficient in data analysis")
- Draft your goal in one line (e.g., "Improve my data analysis skills using Excel")

Refine it using SMART

- **Specific:** What exactly will you do?
- **Measurable:** What metric will prove progress?
- **Achievable:** Is it realistic, given time and resources?
- **Relevant:** Does it advance your vision?
- **Time-bound:** What's your deadline?

Take a break and then review and adjust.

- Create a simple action plan and schedule.

An example of a SMART goal could be "Complete an intermediate Excel course, build two dashboards from team data, and present insights to my manager by June 30."

Grow faster with a growth mindset

Nelson Mandela once said, "I never lose. I either win or learn." That's the essence of a growth mindset, popularised by psychologist Carol Dweck: the belief that abilities can be developed through effort, feedback, and strategies. For freshers, this matters tremendously.

- Believe skills can be built. Set learning goals for yourself instead of trying to protect your image of knowing everything.
- Treat challenges as opportunities, not



threats.

- View setbacks as learning opportunities, not failures.
- Value effort over innate talent.
- Actively seek feedback for better self-awareness and performance.
- Be inspired by others' success. Don't let it become a comparison trap.
- Assess the support you have access to — people, strengths, and resources — because career growth doesn't happen in isolation. Understand who encourages and challenges you? Who can mentor you? Who is doing what you aspire to? Expand your network intentionally, but remember that relationships are a two-way street.

Personal strengths, knowledge, and skills

- What are the strengths that people rely on you for?
- What do you understand well in your domain?
- Which new skills do you need for your next step? Identify courses, projects, or mentors to close the gap. Work with a three-column sheet — **I have | I need to improve | I need to develop.**

Resources and tools

- List what you already have — time, access, budget, platforms — and what's missing. Look for smarter, not harder, ways to execute — templates, automations, peer study groups, shorter feedback loops.
- Build your professional growth plan. Define your vision by stating the professional you want to become, the impact you want to make, and the values you will uphold.
- Set SMART goals and break your vision into 6-month, 1-year, and 3-year milestones.
- Know yourself. Evaluate your strengths, knowledge, and skills and document them. Revisit this every month.
- Leverage support. Name two mentors, two peers, and one community to engage with this quarter. Identify one course and one on-the-job project to do.
- Act and reflect. Track progress, adjust goals, and celebrate wins — however small.

Why is all this important? Because vision gives direction — it aligns choices and sustains motivation. SMART goals turn intention into measurable progress. A growth mindset fuels resilience and helps you learn faster and bounce back stronger. Knowing the resources you have access to helps you multiply results. Don't walk the path alone; build your system.

The first years of your career set habits that last. Choose clarity over drift, learning over ego, and consistency over bursts. Your journey is yours to design — start now.
(The author is a counsellor and wellness coach who works with adolescents and adults)

Suggestions? Feedback?
Questions? Mail us:
dheducation@deccanherald.co.in

Using books as discussion prompts for children

Since the pandemic began, more children have started school without being "school-ready." In 2022-23, 33% of all children starting reception in England lacked the skills needed for success in school, rising to 45% among children receiving free school meals.

Language deficits are a significant part of a lack of school readiness. These include the failure both to understand and produce language, driven by a lack of vocabulary. These skills are important for regulating attention and behaviour. The inability to understand or express themselves makes school engagement challenging for children.

Early childhood language difficulties have a long-term impact. Children with identified vocabulary difficulties at age five are three times more likely to have mental health problems in adulthood, and are twice as likely to be unemployed.

What's more, 81% of children with behavioural problems have language difficulties, and 60% of young offenders have low language skills. Language skill deficits are a major public health concern.

One evidence-based way to improve young children's language development is through dialogic book sharing. This means that, when reading a book with an adult, children are prompted to speak by being asked questions.

These could concern, for example, what they can see, what they think might happen, how they think people in the pictures are feeling, and whether they have had that experience themselves. Adults provide enthusiastic feedback to the child, praising them and repeating and expanding on what they say.

Through dialogic book sharing, adults

become active listeners and encourage children to assume progressively more active roles in storytelling. Adults follow the child's lead, encouraging active participation in conversations and increasing both the number and complexity of questions asked.

Dialogic book-sharing programmes for parents of younger children have shown that equipping parents with the skills to support their children can increase children's language skills.

Reading books with adults can provide children with more frequent exposure to a wider vocabulary. Child-directed speech quality—the amount and quality of speech directed at children by their parents or caregivers—is a strong predictor of children's vocabulary and language development. My research with colleagues adds to this evidence. In one study, parents participated in small-group dialogic book-sharing sessions with their children at school.

It resulted in significant increases in observed positive parenting, such as the use of praise and encouragement, and in the child's expressive language skills. Parents also reported significantly higher rates of child prosocial behaviour (behaviour that enables children to get on with others) and social and emotional ability—their ability to regulate their emotions and get on with others.

Another study trained school-based teaching assistants to deliver the program to targeted children in school. The teaching assistants reported positively on the training, and results showed an improvement in the children's reading skills.

BULLETIN BOARD

Content writing internship

Vedaz is hiring a content writing intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of content writing, creative writing, written English proficiency, and Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) can apply by March 13. The stipend is Rs 7,000/month. Apply at: <https://shorturl.at/QsLur>.

UI/UX design internship

GARS Technology is hiring a UI/UX Design intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of Figma, UI & UX Design, and User Interface (UI) Development can apply by March 18. The stipend is Rs 5,000-8,000/month. Apply at: <https://shorturl.at/tEeJx>.

Business development internship

Vinra Group is hiring a product and visualisation design intern in Bengaluru. Students with MS Excel proficiency and strong spoken and written English can apply by March 12. The stipend is Rs 10,000 - 20,000/month. Apply at: <https://shorturl.at/87oX8>.

Studio marketing executive internship

Home Canvas is hiring a Studio Marketing Executive intern in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of MS Excel, Client Interaction, and Client Relationship can apply by March 7. The stipend is Rs 15,000-17,500/month. Apply at: <https://shorturl.at/OYQed>.



Two-year-old mowed down after car rams scooter in KR Puram

Residents protest pothole-ridden road; demand suspension of panchayat development officer

BENGALURU, DHNS

A two-year-old boy died on Sunday evening after a speeding car rammed a stationary scooter in KR Puram and ran him over.

The victim, Trishan, son of Harish and a resident of Venkata in Yelahanka, was travelling with his relative Vijayalakshmi and her son Badri.

The KR Puram traffic police said the incident occurred

around 6.10 pm on Kittaganur Maragondanahalli Main Road.

The family was heading towards the Shiva temple in Maragondanahalli when they were caught in a traffic jam near Karipud Supermarket at Halehalli.

Reckless driving

Eyewitnesses told the police that while the scooter (KA 53 EF 7817) was stationary in the traffic jam, a speeding Alcazar car (KA 03 NT 1831) from the same direction crashed into the two-wheeler.

"The impact was so sudden that the toddler, who was seated on the scooter, was thrown onto the asphalt. Before the onlookers could react, the car moved forward, running over the child," a senior police officer said.



Trishan

Pothole outrage

A large number of residents staged an impromptu protest on Monday morning after learning of the death of the two-year-old in the road accident, blaming potholes.

Residents alleged that Halehalli main road, under the Kithaganur gram panchayat, has been in a poor condition for the past five years.

"Even after the death, no official has visited the site," the protesting

residents said, holding a photograph of the deceased child.

They said many accidents have been reported on the road in the past five years.

The residents, who blocked the road for a couple of hours, demanded the suspension of the panchayat development officer. The road, they said, falls under the Mahadevapura assembly constituency.

Garbage disposal

The protest is likely to disrupt garbage disposal, as the affected road was earmarked for development under the village development fund by the Greater Bengaluru Authority in exchange for permitting city waste dumping in Mahadevapura constituency. Panchayat leaders have warned they may stop garbage-bound vehicles from dumping waste in Mitaganahalli.

Trishan, who sustained severe head and internal injuries, was rushed to a hospital in Bhattarahalli.

He succumbed to his injuries shortly after.

The car driver, Krishna Mohan Menon, 43, a resident of

Salarpuria East Crest Apartment in Bandapur, has been detained.

Police said preliminary investigations point to speeding and reckless driving in a congested zone as the main causes of the accident.

The KR Puram traffic police have registered a case under sections 281 (rash driving) and 106(1) (causing death by negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The car has been seized, a police officer said.

Children at risk as parents flout two-wheeler safety norms



The two-wheeler's front floorboard is a crush zone. Seating children there can turn sudden braking or collisions into fatal risks, warns traffic police. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

Despite rules, parents continue to carry children on two-wheelers in risky conditions, leaving the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) concerned for their safety.

Children are often seen standing on the front floorboard of the scooters or seated in the pillion with no protection.

The issue has come to focus after a series of accidents, including the recent death of two toddlers in Thanisandra,

who fell from their father's scooter onto the pathway of a moving school bus.

"The practice of seating several children on the front floorboard is dangerous," said a senior traffic police officer. "In case of a head-on collision or sudden braking, that space becomes a crush zone. We are urging parents to seat children at the back, with a proper ISI-marked helmet."

"I see parents wearing helmets themselves while their children do not have any protection on," he added.

DCP Anoop Shetty (Traffic, West) pointed to the careless-



Parents are so reckless that we have seen them carrying a crying infant in one hand and riding the scooter with the other. A helmet costs less than a week's petrol, yet they gamble with their child's life.

Anoop Shetty
DCP, (Traffic, West)

ness during rush hour when parents ferry their wards to school.

"We see dangerous levels of overcrowding (in two-wheelers) without safety precautions," he said. "Parents are

so reckless that we have seen them carrying a crying infant in one hand and riding the scooter in the other."

Notwithstanding the rules, children wearing helmets during rides are a rare sight since parents fail to buy them to save money. "A helmet costs less than a week's petrol, yet they gamble with their child's life," the DCP added.

Police have warned parents that repeated violation would result in the suspension of their vehicle registration certificate and action under the Juvenile Justice Act for negligence.

GBA chief vows to make Indira Canteens more attractive

BENGALURU, DHNS: GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Monday said Indira Canteens do not have as many patrons as roadside eateries, despite providing food at an affordable price.

Launched a decade ago with much fanfare, the canteens have been losing their appeal in recent times.

"The canteens were opened in the interest of the economically poor section of society," Rao said.

"I have visited some canteens, but they were drawing fewer customers," he mentioned, adding that he will call a meeting of all five corporation commissioners to discuss ways to make the canteens more attractive by improving the food quality or investing in their infrastructure, if necessary.

Spa owner abducted near Electronics City

BENGALURU, DHNS: A spa owner was abducted by three unidentified men while returning home in south Bengaluru late on Sunday night, police said.

Ashith Jha, 28, was riding a two-wheeler with his manager, Manukumar, when three men armed with machetes intercepted them near Bettadasanapura, close to Electronics City.

The assailants allegedly threatened and assaulted both men before forcing Jha into a car and fleeing the spot, leaving Manukumar behind.

"Manukumar approached the Electronics City police station after midnight and reported the incident.

"Acting on directions from senior officers, a team led by the Electronics City ACP has taken up the investigation," said Narayana M, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Electronics City.

Jha, a native of Bihar, resides in Thirupalya. He runs a spa in Akshayanagar in partnership with another person.

BBC land acquisition: BDA to draw Rs 500 cr from HUDCO by March

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) will draw Rs 500 crore from the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) before the end of March 2026 for the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR), now re-branded as the Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC).

The authority has already drawn a token first instalment of Rs 50 crore on February 13.

LK Atheeq, chairperson of Bengaluru Business Corridor

Ltd, said it has sufficient funds to pay for acquired land.

Cash is among five types of compensation offered by the BDA to property owners giving up land for the project, which covers about 74 km from Tumakuru Road to Hosur Road.

The total project cost is estimated at Rs 27,000 crore. Of this, Rs 21,000 crore is earmarked for land acquisition, and the rest for construction.



LK Atheeq

North corporation gives 20 stray dogs for adoption

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) has given 20 stray dogs for adoption.

The corporation said the initiative is part of its efforts towards humane management of stray dogs, and promotion of adoption and animal welfare. The dogs were adopted by Sujaya Jagadish.

"The adoption process has been carried out in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, following humane procedures. All adopted dogs have been vaccinated with ARV and combined vaccines, sterilised under the ABC programme, health-checked, and properly tagged by the corporation," a statement by the BNCC said.

Sujaya has assured she will provide proper food, shelter, medical care, and humane

treatment to the adopted dogs under the corporation's adoption programme, the officials said.

"The adoption of street dogs significantly contributes to humane population control, protection of public health, and overall animal welfare in the city," said BNCC Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar. He appealed to citizens to come forward and adopt street dogs as part of their social responsibility.

Adopt a stray

Citizens interested in adopting stray dogs can contact the Animal Husbandry Department of the corporation at: Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Animal Husbandry Department, Bengaluru North City Corporation, Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura. Email: adyelahanka@gmail.com.

DEVOTION & TRADITION



Malleswaram's Sri Kadumalleshwara Swamy Temple buzzed on Monday as the grand Brahma Rathotsava chariot procession rolled through the streets. DH PHOTO/KRISHNAKUMAR PS

GBA enlists students to map, remove hazardous trees

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has roped in students from agriculture, biology and similar streams to map dried trees and branches in each corporation.

Based on the maps prepared by the students, authorities will visit the locations and decide on the course of action, GBA's Assistant Conservator of Forests said.

Students were trained by experts to identify the kind of trees that need attention. They were also given the addresses of roads where the trees must be checked. Two students per corporation are taking part in the exercise.

The process was introduced to ensure dried trees

and branches do not turn into safety hazards.

The authority is also clearing wood from fallen trees and branches without delay.

"Good quality wood with a hard bark will be auctioned to people or establishments requiring wood for activities such as cooking or firewood," said Santosh Kumar, Assistant Conservator of Forest, affiliated with the office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests within the GBA limits.

Recently, GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao directed officials to remove trees posing a danger across the GBA limits.

Tree branches obstructing traffic, posing risks to pedestrians on footpaths, dried branches, trees leaning onto roads and those blocking streetlights must be cleared immediately.

Safety sweep

So far, 79 dried trees, 789 dried branches, 48 dangerous trees and branches have been removed in the South Corporation limits.

In the Central Corporation limits, 42 dry trees, 395 dry branches, 15 dangerous trees and 369 such branches have been cut.

Data from other corporations are yet to be released.

Mishaps in 2025

Last year, two people died after tree branches fell on them.

In the first case, an auto driver in Jayanagar died after a Gulmohar branch fell on him. He was rushed to hospital, but died.

In another incident, a 29-year-old died after a branch fell on him, causing fatal head injuries.



US Ambassador Sergio Gor (centre) during an auto ride with Bangalore South MP LS Tejasvi Surya on Monday. PHOTO: X

Bengaluru airport to restore bus bays at Terminal 1

BMTC will get back all 14 bus bays in 15-20 days, says transport minister

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) will restore dedicated BMTC bus bays at Terminal 1 (T1) in the next 15 to 20 days, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has confirmed.

In January, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) faced criticism after bus bays at T1 were reduced from 14 to six, with one lane reassigned to a private taxi operator.

This reduction squeezed operations for the BMTC's Vayu Vajra fleet, forcing them to depart quickly to avoid congestion, leaving many passengers stranded or waiting longer for the next service.

"We are getting back the number of bus bays we had before. The civil work is currently underway, and in another 15 to 20 days, the bays are likely to be back," said the minister, who had sharply criticised BIAL for the reduction in bus bays.

The state government holds a 13% stake in the airport.

The reduction in bus bays also impacted the daily ridership of the Vayu Vajra service. The daily ridership, which fell by over 1,000 people, is



expected to be restored once the bays are rebuilt, a senior BMTC official said.

"At the airport, unless passengers see the bus, they are not going to approach the service," the official said. "If you tell them they have to wait 20 minutes for the next bus, they will not want to take the bus. If we have more bays, our wait time per bus increases, and as a result, we will be able to bring in more passengers and operate at full capacity. Right now, not all of our buses are operating at full capacity."

Before the bus bays were reduced, the daily Vayu Vajra ridership averaged 12,000 and peaked at 14,000.

While a larger bus terminal exists at T2, about 80 per cent of Vayu Vajra's traffic comes from domestic passengers at T1. All domestic flights by IndiGo, the largest airline, are operated through T1.

The limited bus bay capacity also forced the BMTC to reconsider plans to expand the popular Vayu Vajra service. "Once the operations stabilise, we will study the demand and look into the expansion," he added.

At present, the fleet of buses remains one of the most affordable forms of public transport to and from the airport.

BIAL did not comment on the matter.

Indo-US trade deal a death warrant for farmers: AAP

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday staged a protest against the Indo-US trade deal, which it terms as a "death warrant" for Indian farmers.

Leading the protest at Freedom Park, AAP state president 'Mukhyamantri' Chandru added that the deal would leave farmers at the mercy of American corporate interests.

"India's economy is built on the foundation of millions of small-scale farmers who still practise traditional agriculture. In contrast, the US employs a fully mechanised system across millions of acres," Chandru said while addressing a gathering of farmers and party workers.

He claimed that while Indian farmers face an 18 per cent export duty on their produce,

the deal would allow US agricultural goods worth nearly Rs 45 lakh crore to enter the Indian market with little or no tariff.

Party working president Sitaram Gundappa expressed concern over the deal's impact on local dairy and poultry sectors. He warned that cheap animal feed and soybean oil from the US would cripple domestic producers who currently rely on local byproducts.

State organising secretary Satish Kumar slammed the government for prioritising agricultural imports over high-end technology like AI and aerospace.

The AAP has pledged full support to the Samyukt Kisan Morcha and announced statewide protests at all district centres against the deal.



AAP leaders staged a protest at Freedom Park on Monday.

South corporation to auction 98 properties on Saturday

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru South City Corporation will auction 98 properties that defaulted on property tax payments, on Saturday at its Jayanagar office.

Of these, 71 are residential, seven are non-residential and

four are vacant lands. Together, they owe Rs 1.55 crore to the civic body.

In a press note, the corporation said the owners did not pay taxes despite ample opportunities to clear their arrears.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL Programme: Karnataka Gandhi Memorial Fund; Karnataka Media Academy, Karnataka Working Journalists Association, Bangalore Press Club, Bangalore Reporters' Club; P Ramiah's tribute, 'I am Hindu Ramaiah' book's second edition release; Nirmalanandanath Swamiji, Wooday P Krishna, KV Prabhakar, Ayesha Khanum, Shivananda Tagadoor, R Sreedhar, RT Vitthalamurthy; Gandhi Bhavan, Kumarakrupa Road; 3:30 pm.

CULTURAL Play: 'Olacharandi Purana', direction by Archana Shyam, Antaranga Team; Rangashankara, JP Nagar; 7:30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mainly clear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	31.0°C
Minimum	17.0°C

Rainfall	--
Humidity	57%
Sunset (Feb 17)	6:26 pm
Sunrise (Feb 18)	6:42 am
Moonrise	5:47 am
Moonset	5:32 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5:30 pm) Source: IMD

US ambassador soaks in city flavour

BENGALURU, DHNS: US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, soaked in the local flavour with crispy masala dosa, hot filter coffee and a quintessential autorickshaw ride during a visit to the city on Monday evening.

Accompanied by LS Tejasvi Surya at a restaurant in

Indiranagar, the 39-year-old envoy discussed the India-US partnership, particularly in trade, technology and innovation, following the interim trade agreement, the Bangalore South MP tweeted.

Bengaluru hosts over 700 American companies, ac-

counts for 43% of India's software exports, and is home to 40% of the country's Global Capability Centres (GCCs), Surya said.

The United States has also announced plans to open a consulate in Bengaluru, fulfilling a long-pending demand.

Nandini products
safe, no need
to worry: KMF

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has called “baseless” claims in social media posts over the quality of Nandini products.

In a public notice, the KMF maintained that its products were prepared in a safe and hygienic manner. “KMF strictly follows safe and approved methods framed by statutory bodies and the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI),” it said.

According to the KMF, such posts create panic and confusion and urged people not to fall for such “false allegations.”

“KMF requests its consumers not to get confused by baseless allegations and assures that all our milk and milk products are safe for consumption,” the KMF said and pledged legal action against those posting such content.

Midday meals for PU students at
KPS from next academic year

Classes for nursery to 2nd PU
on the same campus at KPS

BENGALURU, DHNS

Come the next academic year, pre-university students at Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) will be served midday meals, confirmed the Department of School Education and Literacy.

The possibility of extending the midday meal scheme to all government and government-aided PU colleges was reportedly discussed at the preparatory meeting for the state budget wherein Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was in attendance. However, the CM

and the Finance Department are learnt to have raised objections to this proposal.

While the Finance Department reportedly flagged the enormous cost of serving midday meals to PU students in all state-run and aided colleges, the CM pointed to logistical problems including the timings of the colleges.

“The CM pointed out that classes at PU colleges commence around 7.30am and end around noon. Therefore, the question of whether there was any need to serve them midday meals was raised,” said an official



Students from Class 1 to Class 10 are served midday meals at government schools.

from the Department of School Education and Literacy.

Since classes for students of nursery to second-year PU are offered on the same campus at KPS institutions, the proposal to serve midday meals to PU students at the KPS schools drew no objections, the official added.

“If we can get sponsors or funds under CSR initiatives or support from NGOs, the department is more than willing to extend the midday meal scheme to all PU colleges,” the official said.

Although nursery classes at government schools were started in the 2019-20 academic

Govt's push for KPS

- 308 KPS institutions running in the state
- 500 KPS schools announced in 2025-26 budget
- 100 KPS institutions proposed in mining-affected districts
- 100 schools under Minority Welfare Department to be upgraded to KPS
- 100 KPS institutions to be started with funds from Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board
- 100 KPS schools to be established with remaining funds

year, it is only since December 2025 that LKG and UKG students at state-run schools are being served midday meals.

HC directs inspection
of PG accommodations
for compliance

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka High Court has directed the jurisdictional medical officer and the assistant director of town planning (ADTP) to inspect the paying guest accommodations, enrolled as members of Paying Guest Accommodation Welfare Association, Bengaluru, to ascertain compliance with the guidelines issued by the BBMP.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj said that the authorities are required to examine whether the construction is in accordance with the approved plan and whether plan sanction has not been granted.

“The inspection to be carried out commencing from 10.30 a.m. on 18.02.2026 and endeavoured to be completed within two weeks thereafter,” the court said.

The court passed this order while hearing the petition filed by the association challenging the notices issued by the BBMP to its members. The petitioners claimed that they have complied with all the guidelines as per the August 7, 2024, order issued by the office of chief commissioner.

“The petitioners could participate in the said inspection if they choose to do so or depute

their respective representatives to do so. In the event of the petitioners not participating in the said inspection and/or not cooperating with the inspection, the petitioners would not be entitled to any equitable consideration,” the court while posting the matter to March 16 for further consideration.

The BBMP guidelines are required to be followed while issuing the trade licence to all paying guest accommodations in terms of Section 305 of BBMP Act. The guidelines include mandatory CCTV surveillance of all entries, exits and corridors, hygienic washroom facilities for the occupants, availability of 135 LPCD (litres per capita/person per day) of potable drinking water, a mass kitchen with FSSAI licence, at least one security guard, fire safety clearance from competent authority and solid waste segregation.

The order also requires jurisdictional health officers to monitor compliance of the guidelines once in six months and zonal commissioners to ensure the compliance. The order further directed the authorities to initiate action as per Sections 307 and 308 of BBMP Act, in case any violations are found.

JEE Mains results: 100
percentile eludes
Karnataka students

BENGALURU, DHNS: No student from Karnataka secured 100 percentile in the JEE Mains -1 results announced on Monday. Meanwhile, 12 students did end up securing the perfect score of a full 100 percentile.

More than 13 lakh students appeared in the JEE Mains-1 examination. A Vishnu Sai Theja, a student of Narayana CO Kaveri Bhavan in Kasavanahalli in Bengaluru emerged as the topper for Karnataka with a score of 99.99 percentile, and an All-India Rank of 14. While Vishnu secured 100 percentile in Physics, he got 99.99 percentile in Chemistry and 99.97 in Mathematics.

An understandably elated Vishnu recalled spending 12 hours at the school. “I stayed at school from 8am to 8pm



Vishnu Sai Teja

initially. But I started returning home at 5.30pm later, but I stayed up studying till 11pm. Watching cricket and YouTube helped me cope with the stress. Physics and Maths are my favourite subjects,” said Vishnu, who is hoping to secure a Computer Science seat in one of the top-ranked IITs. Vishnu also expressed his gratitude for all the support he received from his school.

Vishnu Sai Theja's father Ravikumar Setty is a global engineering leader at Visteon, Bengaluru, while his mother Pallavi is an MBA graduate and homemaker.

Revenue dept
calls meeting on
Kadugodi land today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Six months after reclaiming 120 acres in the Kadugodi plantation and vowing to preserve it as a lung space, the Revenue Department has convened a meeting to explore converting the land into an industrial park.

In a letter to nine officials, Under Secretary Mahantaiah S Hosmath said the Addl CS (Revenue) will chair a meeting at 3.30 pm on Tuesday.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandsa said he was unaware of the move. “Once a forest, always a forest. The Supreme Court has been clear. We want to preserve it as forest land,” he told DH.

In June 2025, the Forest Department had recovered 128 acres, pegging its commercial value at over Rs 4,000 crore.

Revenue officials were unavailable for comment.

Auto drivers' union demands ordinance
to ban 'illegal' bike taxis

BENGALURU, DHNS: An autorickshaw drivers' union on Monday demanded that the state government bring in an ordinance to ban bike taxis in Karnataka.

In a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Adarsha Auto and Taxi Drivers' Union president M Manjunath demanded the ban on “illegal” bike taxis, noting that they were destroying the livelihoods of autorickshaw drivers.

Bike taxis are once again operational in the state after the high court on January 23 directed the state to register motorcycles as transport vehicles and grant them contract carriage permits.

The drivers' union also specified other demands from auto drivers for the 2026-27 state budget, which the chief minister is scheduled to present on

March 6.

The union demanded the establishment of an ‘Unorganised Drivers’ Development Corporation’ for the welfare of auto, taxi, private bus, lorry, maxicab and goods vehicle drivers.

Besides, to help unemployed and rental auto drivers become self-reliant, the government should provide 95% loans under direct loan schemes from various caste-based development corporations for purchasing new autorickshaws, based on hypothecation, he stated.

The price of a new electric autorickshaw is Rs 3.85 lakh. The government should announce a 50% subsidy for drivers purchasing new electric auto-rickshaws. The union also demanded a quota for drivers in the houses being

built under the chief minister's housing scheme or separate colonies in all four directions of Bengaluru.

Currently, under the Labour Department's scheme for unorganised transport sector drivers, if a driver meets with an accident while on duty, Rs 5 lakh is given to the family as accident compensation. This should be amended so that the same compensation is also applicable to drivers who die due to a heart attack while on duty.

The government should declare a ‘Drivers’ Day’ and revise the district-wise fixed number of drivers according to their actual number. For Bengaluru, the number should be at least 150, and arrangements should be made to announce awards and an honorarium of Rs 25,000 for honest and senior drivers, the union stated.

PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA MALLESWARAM
18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru-560055

Walk-in-Interview for Teachers
A walk-in interview will be conducted on **23.02.2026** for the selection of Candidates for the following posts on Part time contractual basis for the session 2026-27 as per the schedule given below.

SL. NO.	POST / SUBJECTS	DATE & TIME OF REPORTING
1	POST GRADUATE TEACHER (PGT)- English, Hindi, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Economics, Commerce and Computer science	23.02.2026 8.00 AM-10.00 AM
2	TRAINED GRADUATE TEACHER (TGT)- English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Kannada, Mathematics, Science and Social Science	
3	PRIMARY TEACHERS	
4	Computer Instructor, Yoga Instructor, Kannada Instructor, Nurse, Sports Coaches, Education Counsellor, Special Educator, Band trainer, Atal trainer, Balvatika Teacher (Pre - Primary teacher) and Dance & Music Teacher.	

Information: For more information regarding eligibility criteria etc., please visit our website - <https://malleshwaram.kvs.ac.in>
Candidates will bring all their original documents along with photocopies at the time of interview.

Sd/- Principal

Making Road & Rail Travel Safer for the people of Bengaluru Region

“Our government is committed to modernizing Indian Railways and providing world-class services to passengers.”
— Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Flagging off of

Mysuru-KSR Bengaluru City Chamundi Express
Mysuru –Bagalkot Basava Express
Tuticorin–Mysuru Express
Mysuru-Pandharpur Gol Gumbaz Express

Trains with provision of an additional stoppage at Nayandahalli Railway Station

and

Inauguration of

Road Over Bridge
between KSR Bengaluru- Nayandahalli (on Vijaynagar –Mysuru Road)

Benefits:

- ❖ Elimination of railway crossings, resulting in a reduced risk of accidents for both pedestrians and vehicles
- ❖ Improved accessibility to essential services such as healthcare and tourism for people in the region
- ❖ Fulfillment of long-pending demands of local residents
- ❖ Enhanced local and regional connectivity, contributing to economic and social development

by

V. SOMANNA
Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti

Tuesday, 17th February, 2026

08.30 a.m. | **Nayandahalli Railway Station** | **10.00 a.m.** | **Goriplota-Hosahalli Railway Bridge**

You are cordially invited

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

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PUB/899/AA0360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Metal Finishers' Association of India (MFAI)
Organizing

INDIAN SURFACE FINISHING CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

AATMA-NIRBHAR BHARAT
PIN SE PLANE TAK

Focus on, Aerospace, Semiconductor, PCB, Electric/Electronic and Auto sector

Chief Guest

Padmashree Dr. C.G. Krishnadas Nair
Former HAL. MD and Chairman

Guest of Honour

Professor Dr. E. S. Dwarakadasa

18TH TO 20TH FEBRUARY 2026, BIEC (BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE)

Executive Council of MFAI (2024-2027)

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Nirmal Soni
Hon. Treasurer

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Sandeep Kundra
Member

Anand Shah
Member

Hasmukh M. Jain
Member

Ashish Shah
Member

Amit Jogani
Member

Harishchandra Yadav
Member



Health dept to provide bonus, incentive to EMTs and pilots

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Health Department will pay experience- and performance-based bonus to the Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and pilots working for the 108 Arogya Kavacha ambulances.

Two percent bonus will be paid every year while 10% incentive will be paid as a performance bonus.

As the health department is completely taking over the 108 services, the employees who are already employed with the 108 services will be given importance and retained.

The pilots should have completed SSLC at the minimum and EMTs should be a graduate with BSc nursing with EMT course. The call center positions will be filled on the contract basis, the order said.

DH

Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that my client **Mr. B. S. UDAY SHETTY, S/o Shrikantha Shetty, R/at No. 79/A, 2nd Cross, Kelagote Industrial area, Chitradurga Rural, Station Road, Chitradurga-577502** intends to purchase the Schedule Property from **M/S UNIVERSAL EDUCATIONAL TRUST, Rep: by VIJAY NARAYAN RAJU**, in its office at 132/2, ROYAL PUBLIC SCHOOL, S K Venkataswamy Raju Layout, JP Nagar, Bangalore-560078.

Any person/s, family members, individuals or groups, Trusts/ Trustees, Government/Non-Government/Semi-Government authorities, Financial Institutions, Banks, Co-operative Societies or local bodies such as Village Panchayath, BDA, BBMP, etc., who have or claim to have any right, title, interest, lien, charge, mortgage, lease, easement, agreement, injunction or any other claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property, or who are in any manner affected by the proposed sale transaction, are hereby called upon to submit their objections/claims, if any, in writing to the undersigned within **SEVEN (7) DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice, along with relevant documentation, proof. If no such objections or claims are received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that there are no claims or objections in respect of the Schedule Property and my client shall proceed to complete the purchase of the said property from the above vendor. Any claim made thereafter shall not be entertained and shall not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **New No. 132/2, Old Site Nos.132/2A, 132/2B, 132/2C and 132/2D, Old PID No. 33/14/2/132/2, Property No. 29/29/29/14/2/132/2B/132/2A/132/2D/132/2C, New EPID No. 3643711818, situated at Sarakkikere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-560078**, measuring East to West 190 feet (57.9 Meters) and North to South 80 feet (24.4 Meters), totally measuring 15200 Square feet (1412.1 Square meters), together with a building built thereon measuring 31638 Square feet and bounded on the:

East by : Road,
West by : Road,
North by : Private Property,
South by : Private Property.

Mr. K.N. SUDHEER, Advocate, Office at: No.301/49, First Floor, near Mutturayaswamy Temple, Bommasandra, Bengaluru-99, Have changed my name to JAGANNATH K.S vide affidavit dated-16/02/2026 before notary S.V. Nagendra, Mysore. Henceforth I shall be called **LAKSHMI PRASAD** only.

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Lakshmi Prasad Rao, residing at: No. TF-001, 3rd Floor, Sri Sai Cherish Apartments, 3rd Main, 3rd Cross, Srinivasa Nagar, Bengaluru-560085, have changed my name to **LAKSHMI PRASAD** vide affidavit dated 10-02-2026 before notary S.V. Nagendra, Mysore. Henceforth I shall be called **LAKSHMI PRASAD** only.

Priyank & BJP spar over RSS and regional disparity

Minister targeting Sangh for cheap publicity: Vijayendra

BENGALURU, DHNS

The BJP on Monday launched a sharp attack on Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge over his criticism of the Rashtriya Swayam-sevak Sangh (RSS), escalating a political slugfest over ideology and regional development.

Speaking at a book release event on Sunday, Priyank had said, “Without RSS, BJP is weaker than the JDS. If RSS is the ghost, BJP is the shadow and we are fighting the shadow. The country will progress if we directly fight the ghost.” He also said the RSS could no longer remain “unregistered”

B Y VIJAYENDRA
BJP state president



Before worrying about the registration of others (of RSS), you should first ensure that the registration of the Congress, a party headed by your father and standing on the verge of losing its political relevance, is not cancelled. RSS is like Lord Shiva, swallowing poisonous barbs to bring out nectar.

PRITYANK KHARGE
IT/BT Minister



If BJP understood the historical reasons for the regional imbalance, it would not have opposed special status under Article 371J. Also, your father (Yediyurappa) was a four-time chief minister. Why was Shivamogga not transformed into Singapore?

registration of the Congress, a party headed by your father and standing on the verge of losing its political relevance, is not cancelled. RSS is like Lord Shiva, swallowing poisonous barbs to bring out nectar. It cannot be shaken by petty, venomous anti-Hindu elements,” said Vijayendra who likened the Congress to the invasive weed “parthenium” that people in Karnataka would remove in 2028.

The row widened after Priyank said IT-BT firms were “scared” to invest in coastal Karnataka fearing communal-

ism. Vijayendra retorted that all taluks of Kalaburagi were listed “most backward” in the Dr Govind Rao Committee report and asked why IT-BT companies had skipped the region.

“Kalyana Karnataka is a backward region. If BJP understood the historical reasons for the regional imbalance, it would not have opposed special status under Article 371J. Also, your father (Yediyurappa) was a four-time chief minister. Why was Shivamogga not transformed into Singapore?,” Priyank sought to know.

Priyank countered that Dakshina Kannada has “immense talent” and said the government was committed to making the coast “an economic accelerator.”. He also alleged the BJP had turned into a “laboratory of communal politics” and the Congress government had set up the anti-communal task force to curb clashes.

Amid fissures, BYV says BJP-JDS will put up united fight against Congress

BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid fissures within the BJP and JD(S) alliance, BJP state president BY Vijayendra on Monday asserted that the NDA would work towards dislodging the “corrupt” Congress government.

Addressing a press conference, Vijayendra said: “Our national leaders discussed that BJP-JD(S) should go together. As a national party, we need to bow down to the decisions taken by the national-level leaders. This applies to the state president, legislators, party workers and both the parties. Our goal and priority is to dislodge this incapable, corrupt Congress.”

JD(S) Youth president and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy’s son Nikhil Kumaraswamy had recently claimed that Kumaraswamy’s return to state politics was “inevitable,” and that people wanted to see him as the chief minister. This had triggered a backlash from BJP leaders.

Speaking about such verbal spats, the BJP state president said: “I have discussed with our party leaders. They said it started from there - JD(S). I have said it’s not important who started but we should go together. Whatever it may be,

A SIGHT TO BEHOLD



Tens of thousands of devotees throng Siddaganga Mutt to witness annual car festival of Siddalingeshwara Swami, at Kyatasandra in Tumakuru, on Monday. DH PHOTO

9 district courts, HC Dharwad Bench get ‘hoax’ bomb threat

BDDS, canine squads and anti-sabotage teams deployed

BENGALURU, DHNS

As many as nine district courts and Dharwad Bench of Karnataka high court received bomb threats, primarily over email, on Monday, triggering a large-scale panic and mobilisation of anti-sabotage units. They were later declared as hoax.

Threats were received by district courts in Mandya, Bengaluru South District (Ramanagara), Kodagu, Mangaluru, Uttara Kannada (Karwar), Dharwad, Hassan, Haveri and Davangere, apart from the high

court bench.

No courts in Bengaluru have received threats so far, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh told *DH*.

Sources in the state police told *DH* that the threat claimed that RDX or similar explosives were planted on the premises of the courts. Respective police stations and senior officers were immediately alerted.

Bomb detection and disposal squads (BDDS), canine squads and anti-sabotage teams were deployed. Court proceedings were halted. Advocates, lawyers and members of public were escorted off the premises.

“A full sweep was done and the threats were declared as hoax. The threats are aimed at creating mischief and panic,” a highly placed police source told *DH*. Similar to the email received on January 6, the latest message claimed that an RDX bomb in the Dharwad bench of Karnataka high court would be detonated at 1.15 pm on February 16 (Monday). The email also carried a message demanding the withdrawal of the EWS reservation implementation in Tamil Nadu.

High Court Additional Registrar Shantaveer Shivappa examined the email and immediately informed SP Gunjan Arya. The SP rushed to the high court, along with a police team. Judges, advocates, and members of the public were evacuated from the court premises, along with their vehicles, as a precautionary measure.

Mangaluru City Police Commissioner Sudheer Kumar Reddy C H said that immediately after receiving the email, the Anti-Sabotage Check (ASC) team was deployed to inspect the court premises and nothing suspicious was found.

Don’t divert SC/ST funds, Cong lawmakers tell govt

‘Punish officials for non-compliance of SCSP/TSP Act’

BENGALURU, DHNS

Ministers and Congress MLAs from the Scheduled Caste (SC) community on Monday urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to remove Section 7C of the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Plan Act that allows the money to be spent for general sector schemes like education, health, guarantees and so on.

As per the Act, money in proportion to the population of SC and STs (24.1% as per the 2011 census) has to be provided to them in the Budget.

Scrapping 7C effectively means that, under the Act, money cannot be used for guarantee schemes. Ever since the Congress came to power in 2023, the opposition BJP and JD(S) have been accusing the government of “diverting” SCSP/TSP funds for guarantees.

Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa, Home Minister G Parameshwara, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa, IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge, Excise

Minister R B Timmapur and legislators such as P M Narendraswamy, Sudham Das and others participated in it.

The delegation urged the chief minister to ensure that officials are punished for not complying with the provisions of the SCSP/TSP Act. They also highlighted that the Human Development Index (HDI) of people from SC and ST communities must be improved.

The legislators are learnt to have sought higher stipends for SC/ST students travelling abroad, explained the need to ensure that recruitment is done from backlogs.

According to sources, the delegation also noted that there were departmental inquiries on people from SC/ST communities whenever they were due for promotions.

Arguing that most of the people from SC and ST communities vote for the Congress, the legislators and ministers urged the chief minister to provide Cabinet berths to them in proportion to their voting percentage for the party. The delegation also sought more money for boards and corporations.

The chief minister is said to have positively responded to the demands. A similar meeting is also expected to be held with Congress MLAs and minister (Satish Jarkiholi) from the ST community.

State govt notifies 1% gig workers’ welfare fee

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government on Monday notified the quantum of the gig workers’ welfare fee, which different aggregator platforms must pay as a contribution to the gig workers’ welfare fund.

Following this, aggregator platforms such as Swiggy, Zomato, Ola, Uber and so on will have to pay the necessary welfare fee to the Gig workers’ board from February 13.

The board is headed by Labour Minister Santosh Lad.

The Government Order published in the Gazette on Feb 13 has specified different amounts of welfare fee for ride-hailing services, food and delivery and logistical services. While the basic welfare fee is a uniform 1% for all types of aggregators per transaction, the cap per transaction varies for different types of services and vehicles.

The government has imposed a cap of Rs 0.50 on aggregators providing food and delivery services (two-wheelers) such as Swiggy, Zomato and so on. For aggregators such as Ola, Uber, which cater to ride-hailing services, the cap is Rs 0.50 for two-wheelers, Rs 0.75 for three-wheelers and Re 1 for four-wheelers.

For aggregators providing logistics services like Zepto, Blinkit and so on, the cap is Rs 0.50 for two-wheelers, Rs 0.75 for three-wheelers, Re 1 for light commercial vehicles and Rs 1.5 for heavy commercial vehicles.

For e-market services, the cap is Rs 0.5 for two-wheelers, Rs 0.75 for three-wheelers and Re 1 for four-wheelers.

The aggregators have not yet announced if they will subsequently increase their delivery charges.

The Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025, mandates the formation of a welfare board to oversee the social security of gig workers and a welfare fund to finance these initiatives. Contributions to the welfare fund include the welfare fee paid by aggregators, the grants by state and central govt and contributions by gig workers.



Shivakumar not ‘bande’ but ‘rail engine’, says Hariprasad

BENGALURU, DHNS: Veteran Congress leader B K Hariprasad on Monday took refuge in metaphors to explain the ongoing power tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar.

“D K Shivakumar is the state Congress president. So, instead of calling him “bande”, call him a “rail engine” as he drags the party forward. Whenever the train approaches the platform, it makes a noise, and everything calms down after the train departs. Similarly, there is a buzz and noise when Shivakumar arrives, and things

settle down once he leaves. So, if there should be a leadership change, only Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi can decide. The rest all need to wait and watch,” he said during a press meet.

When reporters pointed out that CM’s son-MLC Yathindra was making statements on the power-sharing row, Hariprasad said, “Both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar are party engines. They are on the same track. Siddaramaiah leads if it concerns the government, and Shivakumar will take the lead in party matters.”

Congress patriarch of electoral malpractice: Ashoka

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of Opposition in Assembly R Ashoka on Monday taunted the ruling Congress, campaigning against “Vote Chori”, as the “patriarch” of electoral malpractice.

Ashoka, while referring to the Karnataka High Court declaring the election of Con-

gress MLA S N Subbareddy in 2023 from the Bagepalli constituency “invalid and void”, said, “Where is vote theft? It is in the Congress party! Will Rahul Gandhi now come to Bagepalli (now Bhagyanagar) and protest against vote theft and election fraud? If there is any patriarch of vote stealing

and electoral malpractice in our country, it is the Congress party and the forefathers of Rahul Gandhi.”

The petition was filed by BJP candidate C Muniraju seeking both the annulment of Subba Reddy’s election and a declaration naming himself as the winner from Bagepalli. However,

the court has only annulled the result. Muniraju had alleged that Subba Reddy had filed incorrect nomination papers and concealed details regarding his assets and liabilities during the filing of nomination.

“I had been fighting the case legally for the last three years. I welcome the court ruling

Techie’s body arrives home from Canada; father alleges ‘targeted attack’

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

“My son was deliberately targeted. There was no provocation — they open fired on him multiple times,” said Raja Nandakumar, father of R Chandan Kumar (37), a Bengaluru techie shot dead in Canada on February 7.

Chandan’s mortal remains reached the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) around 11.45 pm on Monday and the family home in Thya-

magondlu, near Nelamangala, around 2.45 am, drawing hundreds of grieving relatives, friends, villagers and local politicians. Many broke down.

The last rites were conducted later in the day in accordance with family customs.

Nandakumar, a retired physical education teacher at a government school, said his son loved the US, where he had worked for a few years and was happy with his job and pay.

“He later shifted to Canada and had been living there for the past six years. He would

often speak about life there. He was satisfied with his job and lifestyle,” Nandakumar told *DH*.

According to reports, assailants open fired at Chandan multiple times in the parking lot of Woodbine Shopping Centre, near Reddale Boulevard and Highway 27. A vehicle parked near the mall entrance was found with several bullet holes on the driver’s side.

Nandakumar recalled that he last spoke to his son around

4.30 am on February 6. “We spoke normally. He had seen several marriage proposals and was in the process of finalising one,” he said.

Chandan’s mother Shailaja said her son had last visited India in May 2025 and met all his friends and relatives. “He also attended the funeral of my father, K N Ratnakar Shetty, who was 102 years old and passed away due to health issues in Chitradurga. He was very attached to



Chandan Kumar R

the family,” she said.

Chandan’s parents said he wanted to settle in Canada and dreamt of promoting the Kannada language and culture there.

“He even insisted that we move to Canada but we advised him to get married first,” his father said, adding that Chandan could adjust to any place and make friends easily.

Chandan had planned to return to India earlier but later changed his mind as work commitments kept him busy.

In a LinkedIn post two

I JAGANNATHA K S #383, near Mutturayaswamy Temple, Bommasandra, Bengaluru-99, Have changed my name to JAGANNATH K.S vide affidavit dated-16/02/2026.

I NAGARAJ TARA JYOTHI #383, near Mutturayaswamy Temple, Bommasandra, Bengaluru-99, Have changed my name to TARA JYOTHI vide affidavit dated-16/02/2026.

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1000 DAYS OF GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

Karnataka surges ahead with Sri Siddaramaiah

Curated by **DH Brandspot**

‘Pro-people administration has always been my objective...’

Chief Minister **Sri Siddaramaiah** shares some thoughts on completion of 1,000 days in office

Welfare of the masses is the goal...
When I first became the Chief Minister in 2013, my goal was to provide a pro-people administration. I am continuing with the same objective in my second term too. In the first term, we implemented many schemes including Annabhagya and Ksheerabhagya. Now we are working for the development of the people with five guarantees. For the first time in the country, we have provided a conducive environment for economic development at the grassroots level through guarantees. So far, more than Rs 1.16 lakh crores has been used for the guarantee schemes.

On promises being kept...
Guarantee schemes have been implemented effectively in the State. These schemes have been designed to reach the beneficiaries directly.
Under the Gruhalakshmi Scheme, Rs 59,863 crores has been spent on 1.24 crore beneficiaries till October 2025. Under the Gruha Jyoti Scheme, Rs 22,839 crores has been spent on 1.65 crore beneficiaries till December 2025. Under the Yuvanidhi Scheme, Rs 912 crores has been spent on 3.08 crore youth till November 2025. Under the Shakti Scheme, Rs 17,303 crores has been spent on 668 crore beneficiaries. Apart from this, 72.02 crore beneficiaries have received ration under the Annabhagya Scheme. Rs.11,821.17 crore has been spent on the scheme.

Our government, which always acts with the people’s best interests in mind, has delivered as it promised. And, we will continue to do so.

On discrimination by the Centre...
No matter which party is in power at the Centre, all States should be treated equally. However, the BJP government at the Centre is not doing justice to the State every year. The urban and rural local bodies of the State will get Rs 37,372 crores in five years, while Uttar Pradesh will get Rs 1.17 lakh crores, Maharashtra will get Rs 79,000 crores, and Madhya Pradesh will get Rs 48,000 crores.

Similarly, injustice has been done to the State in the Natural Disaster Fund. We will get Rs 5,135 crores, while Maharashtra will get Rs 31,597 crores and Gujarat will get Rs 6,766 crores. This is how the Centre is discriminating against our State.

We had asked for special schemes and grants for the development of Bengaluru, Kalyana Karnataka, Malnad, and coastal and north Karnataka. The Centre has not allotted a single penny for any of these.

‘Water will be 7th guarantee...’

Sri D K Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister, highlights the impact of guarantees in the State

On the historic schemes...
The Congress government in the State is setting a record through its historic schemes. It has been acknowledged that the State government has given pro-people governance in the last 1,000 days. Through the five guarantees, we have become a model not only for the State but also for the country. As people have accepted our schemes in the State, other states in the country, and the government at the centre, have initiated guarantee schemes. Criticism and allegations don’t last, only the good work remains.

Today, you can witness a wave of change in the State. The Shakti, Gruha Lakshmi, Gruha Jyoti, Yuvanidhi and Annabhagya schemes with a grant of more than Rs 1.16 lakh crores have touched the hearts and homes of the people.

Land Guarantee Scheme makes it easier to access records...

The Revenue Department is also introducing a new scheme. This Land Guarantee Scheme alleviates the suffering of the people who were spending valuable time there. This department has a direct relationship with the people. So, many have to go to the offices of the department every day. Now, the digitisation of records makes it easier for the people to access the information they need without having to go to an office of the department.

Water guarantee next...
After the 6th guarantee - Land Guarantee Scheme – we will initiate the 7th guarantee with ‘water guarantee’. We will guarantee drinking water to everyone in the State, and the necessary water for irrigation.

Disparity between tax paid Centre’s grants...
‘Our tax is our right’. Karnataka pays the highest tax in the country, but is being treated unfairly every year. The Union Finance Minister had announced funds for the Upper Krishna River Project and the State government said that it would be declared a national project. But neither the funds nor the national project have been announced.

The Rs 11,495 crores recommended in the 15th Finance Commission was not given to the State. In the 14th Commission, 4.71 per cent was given to the State. In the 15th Commission, it was reduced to 3.64 per cent. Due to this, the State lost Rs 1.25 lakh crores in five years. It is the responsibility of all the people’s representatives in the State to question this reduction in funds. While the State gives Rs 4.50 lakh crores in tax, we get only Rs 55-60 thousand crores back.

After receiving high GST for eight years, the central government has suddenly cut GST. The State will lose Rs 12-15 thousand crores from GST. This is a loss for seven crore Kannadigas.

‘He is leading the State effectively...

Excerpts from a letter written to **Sri Siddaramaiah** by **Sri Basavaraj Rayareddi**, Economic Advisor to Chief Minister



It is a matter of pride for the people of the State that Sri Siddaramaiah has successfully completed 2,793 days in office as on January 6, 2026, thus becoming the longest-serving chief minister in the

history of the State. He took a significant step towards building a hunger-free Karnataka by implementing the Annabhagya Scheme within 24 hours of assuming office as the chief minister for the first time. His thoughts are the main reason for the implementation of the Food Security Act in the country. Sri Siddaramaiah has strongly emphasised on social justice, equality and women empowerment.

Despite the central government not cooperating and the uncontrolled growth of Bengaluru due to the

migration of 2.50 lakh people every year, he is leading the government effectively.

The credit for presenting the highest number of Budgets in the country, 17 in all, goes to him. The people of the State have immense hopes on him. I am proud to have been an economic advisor to him as part of the preparation of the Budget.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations and express my unwavering confidence that he will lead the State on a path of further development in the next two and a half years.



Striding towards social justice and fiscal discipline

In the first 1,000 days of the State government there has been unprecedented development. Innovative schemes launched have helped in the economic welfare of the masses. These schemes are being adopted by other states in the country too

The State government has recorded unprecedented achievements in development, social justice and fiscal discipline. Karnataka has emerged as a model State in the country. Compared to other States, Karnataka has always emerged at the top in progress. According to the India Justice 2025 report, Karnataka at the top among the large states in police and judicial systems.

In addition, the masses have appreciated the progress made in implementation of schemes formulated for their welfare.

The government’s five major guarantee schemes - Gruha Jyoti, Gruha Lakshmi, Anna Bhagya, Shakti and Yuvanidhi - have increased the purchasing power of the people of the State. The

government has allocated Rs 1,16,706 crores so far for these schemes and continues to allocate funds.

According to a study of the State’s guarantee schemes by institutions such as King’s College, London and Azim Premji University, these schemes have brought about a revolutionary change in poverty eradication and women empowerment. The State government proudly stated that the success of these schemes is evidenced in the fact that the percentage of households receiving cash transfers, which was only 9.30 per cent in 2022, has increased to 72.70 per cent by 2024. It is significant that these State guarantees have won the hearts of the people to the extent that other States and also the central government are following them.

Funds powering guarantee schemes

Total grants for guarantees: ₹1.16 lakh crores

Gruha Lakshmi	Gruha Jyoti	Yuva Nidhi	Shakti	Anna Bhagya
₹59,863 crores	₹22,839 crores	₹912 crores	₹17,303 crores	₹11,821.17 crores

Some development plans for progressive Karnataka...



Healthcare: Referral exemption for medical treatment on a trial basis for one year at government rates under the AB-ARK scheme for treatment in four private medical colleges and hospitals within the GBA area.

Cold storage: A 2,000 MT capacity cold storage facility in Honnali Taluk of Davangere District at an estimated cost of Rs 10.32 crores. Also, infrastructure works with NABARD’s financial assistance at an estimated cost of Rs 12.40 crores for cold storage facilities being implemented by the Karnataka Grape and Vinegar Board in Toravi village of Tikota Taluk of Vijayapura District.

Skill centres: A Skill Lab Simulation Centre and Innovation Incubation Centre at Ballari

Medical College and Research Centre at an estimated cost of Rs 41.16 crores.

TB Hospital: A new 200-bed hospital at the TB Hospital premises of Ballari Medical College and Research Centre to be set up at an estimated cost of Rs 330.59 crores.

HPV vaccine: Grant of Rs 15.34 crores for HPV vaccine for 14-year-old girls of Bidar, Koppal, Kalaburagi, Raichur and Yadgiri districts.

New works: 43 new works at an estimated cost of Rs 71.41 crores in district and taluk hospitals approved.

Infrastructure for healthcare: Rs 22.37 crores of 15th Finance Commission grant approved for the development of laboratories and communication units, and purchase of furniture, in 50 out of the 148 Block Public Health Units established between 2021 and 2025.

Gene bank: A gene bank to be established at the Horticulture University, Bagalkote, at an estimated cost of Rs 11.12 crores.

Footwear for students: Distribution of one pair of shoes and two pairs of socks free of cost for all students studying in Class I to X in government schools in the State in the academic year 2026-27 under the Vidya Vikas Yojana at an estimated cost of Rs 104 crores.

Schemes for welfare of farmers

The government has relaunched the Krishi Bhagya Scheme for the welfare of farmers in the State and has provided a grant of Rs 200 crores for the scheme. An amount of Rs 2,250 crores has been deposited in the

accounts of 14,21,615 farmers, compensating for crop damage on 14.21 lakh hectares affected by heavy rains and floods. The implementation of Krishna Upper River Project Phase-3 has been prioritised,

and compensation of Rs 30-40 lakhs per acre has been fixed for lands that are inundated. Through these initiatives, the State government has expanded its contribution to the welfare of agriculture further.

One-of-a-kind guarantee schemes: Boon for the masses

Cash transfer growth: Increase from 9.30 per cent in 2022 to 72.70 per cent in 2024.

Family well-being: 89 per cent of the beneficiaries reported improvement in family welfare.

Women empowerment: Shakti scheme enhances mobility and savings among women. The free bus travel for women is a path to

economic empowerment. On an average, a woman saves Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,000 every month. This scheme has also helped 34 per cent of women in Bengaluru secure better jobs.

Healthcare: 83 percent of the people have access to good healthcare now.

Annabhagya and Gruhalakshmi schemes: These schemes have provided the

much-needed nutrition and debt relief. They are instrumental in providing food security and economic independence.

Access to nutritious food: 83 per cent of women have used their savings from the guarantees to support their families with nutrition.

Empowerment: 80 per cent of women play a lead role in family decisions.

Grants powering development

Over **₹1.16** lakh crores: Implementation of five guarantees

Over **2.11** lakh families received title deeds

₹1.50 lakh crores: Expenditure on Bengaluru infrastructure

Over **₹1.12** lakh crores: Reserved for public welfare schemes (annually)

1.37 crore families have received direct benefit under government schemes

₹2,250 crores: Crop damage compensation to 14.21 lakh farmers

₹4,130 crores: Incentives for 9.07 lakh milk producers

3,735 Agricultural wells dug (cost ₹49 crores)

₹1,081 crores: Lake rejuvenation around Bengaluru

Some welfare initiatives that spell prosperity

This government took a revolutionary decision to provide 12 days of paid menstrual leave annually to women workers.

- ‘Akka Task Force’ for the protection of women.
- Government schools to incorporate kindergarten
- About 8.50 lakh children are pursuing higher education in residential schools with hostels
- Implementation of the ‘Akshara Avishkara’ scheme to improve standard of education in Kalyana Karnataka region
- 300 Karnataka public schools set to be launched
- The process of implementing the report of Prof Sukhdev Thorat Committee has begun
- More than 10 cities, including Bengaluru and Mysuru, are emerging as ‘health hubs’
- A new programme has been implemented to conduct health checks at doorsteps
- Food adulteration has been made a crime and a campaign has been launched to prevent it
- Over 80 per cent of cases pending in revenue courts are being disposed off
- The revenue courts have been made available online
- 4,050 undocumented villages have been declared revenue villages
- Entitlements have been distributed to more than two lakh beneficiaries
- Approval has been given to convert ‘B accounts’ to ‘A accounts’. This will benefit 20 lakh people
- Rs 2,000 crores subsidy for additional seeds and fertilizers for farmers has been provided
- Measures to provide seven hours of continuous electricity to farmers during the day
- Assistance is provided to farmers’ families under the Adige Saubhagya Scheme
- Distribution of equipment to farmers at subsidised rates to encourage agricultural mechanisation
- Rs 83,200 crores reserved for capital expenditure in the 2025-26 State Budget
- Rs 1.50 lakh crores reserved for development projects in Bengaluru city
- Priority for investments in semi-conductor, aerospace and quantum technology
- A new step in the field of technology through ‘Karnataka Quantum Mission’
- Plan to create five lakh jobs in the next five years
- Water supply to 110 villages in Bengaluru under the Cauvery 5th Phase project
- Development of infrastructure under the Greater Bengaluru Authority project
- Drinking water project at a cost of Rs 9,574 crores to cater to 227 local bodies in the State
- Establishment of 42 residential schools for children of construction workers
- Free health check-ups for 14.34 lakh construction workers
- Increase in the certification and honorarium of temple priests from Rs 60,000 to Rs 72,000

Pluralism hits an off-key note

By prescribing new protocols for the rendition of Vande Mataram, which stipulate singing of the entire composition, the Central government has sought to reduce the national song to political messaging. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's evocative lines have moved generations of Indians for more than a century, through the freedom struggle and since Independence. The original composition has six stanzas, of which two were adopted by the Constituent Assembly as the national song. In January, the Ministry of Home Affairs notified, along with detailed instructions, all six stanzas as the national song and ordered that the full version be sung or played at public functions, and before the national anthem when both the songs are played.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in parliament last year that Jawaharlal Nehru dropped stanzas which referred to the motherland as a goddess, from Vande Mataram, under pressure from Jinnah and to appease Muslims. The decision was taken by the Congress party on the recommendation of Rabindranath Tagore; Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Subhas Chandra Bose, and other leaders were parties to the decision. It was a move that respected the sensitivities of non-Hindus, particularly Muslims, who could not be asked to sing portions with Hindu religious imagery. The song has since been a symbol of India's unity and inclusivity, dwelling at the meeting point of culture, history, and nationalism, and drawing its power from that oneness. Its deep resonances rise from its appeal to all people, irrespective of religion, race, language, etc., and as a national symbol, it has layers of meaning. It loses those dimensions when politics is injected into it.

This is an election year in West Bengal, where Vande Mataram holds high emotive value. The rise in interest around the song may be driven by the prospects of electoral gains and polarising intent. There may also be an attempt to present Bankim Chandra as a counter to Tagore, the greatest icon of Bengal, who had a pluralistic and universal vision. National symbols are anchored in unity and consensus. The Ashoka pillar and the *chakra*, drawn from history, have many interpretations, even as they represent a single, but plural, national idea. The State cannot impose a single interpretation or symbolism on people. It should not make rendition of the full song a test of loyalty and allegiance to the nation, even when it is known that some sections of people have difficulties in relating to it. Political narratives that favour the revised protocols carry an element of force that stands in conflict with India's constitutional tenets.

Contractor distress calls for legal remedies

The proposed contractors' strike on March 5 at Freedom Park, Bengaluru, is not a routine pressure tactic; it is a desperate last resort for those pushed to the brink. When members of the Karnataka State Contractors' Association say they have mortgaged homes and jewellery to survive while waiting for government payments, the crisis has moved beyond balance sheets into the realm of human distress. At the heart of the protest is a familiar grievance: delayed payments for executed work. Contractors across departments claim that outstanding bills run into a staggering Rs 37,370 crore. Small and medium contractors, who lack the financial buffer of large firms, have been forced into debt. They borrow at high interest rates to pay labourers and service bank loans while the state sits on their dues. The extension of the standard 60-day payment window to a vague "as far as possible" has only compounded their vulnerability.

What makes this especially troubling is that the problem of uncleared bills has persisted for decades, across political dispensations, pointing to chronic fiscal indiscipline rather than episodic failure. The current blame game illustrates this continuity. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has alleged that the previous BJP government sanctioned projects worth roughly Rs 2.7 lakh crore without budgetary support, leaving unpaid bills estimated at around Rs 60,000 crore. His predecessor, Basavaraj Bommai, dismisses this as a smokescreen, arguing that many approvals were part of a multi-year administrative pipeline and that today's crunch stems from diversion of funds to guarantee schemes. The state also points to delayed central releases to explain the squeeze. But these explanations ring hollow for contractors who have already delivered roads, canals, and buildings that the government continues to use. A pressing question then arises: why do they hesitate to seek arbitration or legal recourse? The answer is: fear of being unofficially blacklisted for future projects.

The way forward demands more than political posturing or ad hoc releases. The government should publish a white paper that clearly establishes the quantum of dues and commit to a transparent, seniority-based payment schedule. Delayed payments must attract statutory penal interest; the state cannot extract interest-free credit from its own contractors. To solve this permanently, Karnataka must evolve a robust legal framework by enacting a Prompt Payment Act, mirroring the rigorous standards of the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Without structural reform, the state will remain trapped in this vicious cycle of debt and distress.

Mandating the full version of Vande Mataram conflicts with the spirit of an inclusive national song

Karnataka must adopt greater fiscal discipline and develop legal frameworks for payment safeguards

COMMENT

THE BIG CHURN

When India's AI turn meets labour realities

The moment is less about speed and more about strategic direction to enable technological adoption and adaptation

DEEPANSHU MOHAN AND ANKUR SINGH

As India convenes global leaders to discuss artificial intelligence later this week, the emphasis has largely been on scale and acceleration. Larger models, deeper integration, domestic infrastructure, and sovereign capability dominate the agenda. These ambitions are understandable. Still, they obscure a more fundamental structural question.

In a labour-abundant economy where job creation for a demographically advantageous position of participating youth in the workforce, what does it mean to rapidly scale a technology whose global trajectory has been labour-saving or labour-substituting? AI does not simply increase output. It reorganises production by reallocating tasks between humans and machines. Some activities become automated because they are codifiable, repeatable, and measurable. Others are created because new complementarities emerge between technology and human skill. Whether AI broadens opportunity or compresses it depends on which of these forces dominates.

In advanced economies facing labour shortages and high wages, automation aligns with structural constraints. Substituting capital for labour can raise efficiency without destabilising employment. India's conditions are different. Millions enter the workforce each year. Informality (nearly 90%) remains the defining feature of employment. The margin of adjustment is not scarcity of labour but of stable jobs.

Much of the formal sector expansion of the past two decades has relied on routine cognitive work in services. Entry-level coding, testing, documentation, customer support, and back-office processing have absorbed graduates from a rapidly expanding higher education system. These are precisely the tasks contemporary AI systems perform most effectively. They excel in environments where outcomes are clearly defined and training data is abundant.

The immediate risk is not wholesale technological unemployment. It is compression. The entry layer of formal employment weakens before new, higher-value tasks emerge at sufficient scale. India's development path has depended on gradual upward movement from low-productivity work into structured, salaried roles. When the first rung of that ladder narrows, the transition slows. Workers displaced from routine roles do not automatically move into frontier occupations. More often, they

move laterally or downward, intensifying competition in crowded segments of the labour market. The effect appears less as open unemployment and more as wage stagnation and thinning pathways of advancement.

Global projections suggest AI's aggregate productivity gains, at least in the medium term, may be incremental rather than transformative. The distributional consequences, however, may be significant. When machines substitute for routine labour, gains accrue primarily to those who own, finance, and control the technology. In economies where capital ownership is concentrated, and core AI infrastructure remains externally controlled, this dynamic can



increase the capital share of income without delivering proportionate wage growth.

For individual firms, substituting labour with scalable AI systems is rational. Lower wage bills improve margins. Faster workflows improve competitiveness. But what is efficient at the firm level does not automatically stabilise the economy.

If substitution outpaces the creation of complementary human tasks, the employment structure thins in the middle. Markets reward cost minimisation. They do not ensure that new roles expand quickly enough to absorb those displaced. This is where the distinction between adoption and adaptation becomes critical. Adoption involves integrating existing AI tools into established workflows. Adaptation requires shaping the direction of technological change so that it complements India's factor endowments.

The country's comparative reality is not capital abundance. It is labour abundance combined with uneven skills and limited social protection. Replicating the automation trajectory of labour-scarce economies risks importing a bias towards labour substitution into a context where the social cost of displacement is higher. The more viable strategy is to redirect AI towards easy and hard domains of work. Current systems excel in easy tasks, those that are standardised, codifiable and predictable. But India's structural advantage lies elsewhere.

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Inches apart, worlds away

We are always connected, yet curiously detached

C V R JOGA RAO

I recently decided to read a book lying on my table and looking accusingly at me every time I walked past. I read two whole pages before my phone buzzed. After reading the message, I resumed reading only to be interrupted again—this time by a forwarded video. By the end of the hour, I had read several messages, watched half a clip, replied politely to three people, and made no progress with the book.

A few days earlier, I stepped into the elevator of my apartment building with three other residents. Enough time, one would think, for the usual pleasantries about the weather or the exciting finish of the previous night's T20 match. Instead, all of us stared at glowing screens. We stood inches apart but worlds away, without exchanging a single word. It struck me then that the smartphone has quietly replaced small talk.

Time was when a daily commute—by

elevator, bus, or train—involved strangers exchanging nods and sometimes striking up conversations that unexpectedly blossomed into friendships. Today, what you see is a sea of tilted heads and illuminated screens. We are physically present but digitally elsewhere.

Social media and mobile phones have slipped into our lives so seamlessly that we are now constantly connected, yet curiously detached. The phone has become a permanent companion—a silent third presence at every meal and meeting. This is not to deny the benefits of the digital age. Messages reach loved ones instantly. Old friendships are rekindled with a few taps. Information travels fast and sometimes does real good.

But abundance has its downside. One message leads to another, one video to the next, until hours vanish with little to show for them. Attention spans shrink, uninterrupted thought becomes a luxury, and entire working days can be spent sifting through digital noise. In trying to stay informed and connected, we often end up disconnected from those at home—and too drained to focus on what truly matters.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rhetoric has real consequences

I refer to 'Crack the whip on Himanta Sarma' (Feb 16). The concerns over the AI-generated video of Himanta Biswa Sarma shooting point blank at a photograph of two Muslims go beyond partisan politics. If political messaging uses imagery that can be read as targeting religious communities, it risks eroding the constitutional

promise of equality and social harmony. The episode highlights the need for greater responsibility in public communication by those holding high office. In a diverse democracy, symbolism and rhetoric carry real consequences, shaping public behaviour and social trust. **SS Paul, Nadia (WB)**

Layout in the area, which has been reduced to shambles with dug-up roads and unwanted statue installations. Such wasteful spending should be made accountable, especially since it involves hard-earned taxpayers' money. **Ashok Srinivasan, Bengaluru**

Sportsmanship lost

The Indian cricket team's attitude

Much of its labour force operates in hard tasks, environments defined by ambiguity, incomplete information, social coordination, and physical adaptability. Technologies that automate easy tasks in India risk eroding an already exposed employment base. Technologies that augment hard tasks raise productivity without collapsing participation. The distinction determines whether AI substitutes for labour or strengthens it.

A structural choice

Intelligent systems can augment frontline health workers, improve agricultural productivity, reduce leakages in public delivery, and enhance small enterprise performance. The issue is not whether AI should expand. It is whether its expansion is aligned with labour market realities. Technological direction is not predetermined. It responds to incentives, taxation, market concentration, and public investment priorities. When capital investment is favoured and labour markets are fragmented, innovation tilts toward automation.

There is also a generational dimension. For two decades, India's mobility narrative rested on mass higher education feeding into service sector employment. Routine cognitive roles provided not only income, but entry into formal economic citizenship. If that entry layer contracts before new complementary roles expand at scale, the consequences extend beyond labour statistics.

A demographic dividend depends on absorption. Without credible pathways into stable work, the economic promise attached to education weakens. India does not face a choice between technological ambition and social stability. It faces a design choice about the structure of its growth. A labour-surplus democracy that adopts labour-saving technologies without expanding complementary human tasks risks a fragile equilibrium. Output may rise. Investment may flow. Yet the base of stable, entry-level opportunities may narrow.

The central question is whether India will discipline the economic direction of the advanced models. In a labour-surplus democracy, the market incentive will favour labour-saving deployment. The public policy ecosystem must decide whether that incentive alone should shape the structure of growth. AI can either reinforce the compression of middle-skill opportunities or expand the productivity of labour-intensive sectors. Confusing these trajectories would be costly. An economy can modernise and yet narrow its base of participation. The test of this moment is whether India treats AI as a tool for enlarging capability or allows it to consolidate advantage at the top of the income distribution.

(Deepanshu is a professor and Dean, O P Jindal Global University; Ankur is a research assistant with the Centre for New Economics Studies at the university)

SPEAK OUT

Congress will be wiped out in Tamil Nadu, and NDA will arrive in its place. We will win again in Assam, and the lotus will bloom in Bengal too. Today, the country's need is the BJP...



Anurag Thakur, BJP MP

Our reasons are not prophets/ When oft our fancies are.

William Shakespeare

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

Aiming high, betting low

Modest, incremental funding for higher education and research exposes rhetoric without commitment

P JOHN J KENNEDY

The grand narrative of the Union Budget 2026-27 paints a bold and ambitious portrait of a nation on the cusp of intellectual and economic dominance. The rhetoric is framed around innovation, skilling, and global knowledge leadership. However, the allocation for the Ministry of Education tells a story of caution, not courage. At approximately Rs 1.39 lakh crore, it is a modest increase of a little over 8% from the previous year. Within this, the sub-allocation for higher education, though increased by a more noticeable 11%, remains fundamentally inadequate for the scale of the stated ambition, which reveals the core contradiction at the heart of India's academic aspiration: world-class rhetoric grounded by incremental, subsistence-level fiscal reality.

For decades, education policy documents have highlighted the need for enhanced public investment. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 reiterated the long-elusive target of allocating 6% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to education. The current budget allocation, in contrast, keeps education's share of total Union expenditure within a narrow band, perpetuating a cycle of aspirational goals undermined by a conservative fiscal commitment.

Indian universities are expected to be multifunctional powerhouses operating under immense, simultaneous pressures. They are tasked with absorbing more students to meet the rising Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) targets. Concurrently, they must modernise infrastructure, attract and retain qualified faculty, build vibrant and internationally connected research ecosystems, and internationalise curricula. Against this daunting and expensive checklist, a marginal year-on-year budget increase is only a life-support system for the *status quo* and not a catalyst for transformation.

The budget does propose several notable and potentially impactful initiatives that indicate an understanding of specific challenges. The proposals for developing "university townships" along key industrial corridors, establishing new specialised institutes in fields like design and hospitality, strengthening formal industry-academic linkages, and significantly expanding hostel infrastructure to boost women's participation in STEM fields are welcome interventions.

However, these targeted measures subtly reveal a broader, increasingly dominant policy tilt that frames higher education primarily as a workforce pipeline for industry. The budget's narrative leans heavily towards skill development and vocational integration, giving less emphasis and less dedicated funding to disciplines that foster critical thinking, ethical

reasoning, and foundational curiosity-driven research, namely, the humanities, social sciences, and pure sciences. These fields are the essential bedrock of a healthy democracy, a nuanced public discourse, and the kind of blue-sky research that leads to transformation. The consequences of this chronic, structural underinvestment are visible. Barring a handful of elite Indian institutions, no Indian university consistently breaks into the global top tier.

Nowhere is this diagnosis clearer than in the state of research and development. Metrics of actual research impact and quality, such as the generation of high-impact patents or groundbreaking innovation, remain uneven and disproportionately concentrated. The reasons are directly budgetary. Academics are often hamstrung by excessive teaching loads, a result of poor student-teacher ratios, leaving limited time for deep research. Funding for projects is frequently fragmented, small-scale, and short-term, preventing the pursuit of sustained, ambitious, decade-long scientific inquiries.

A peripheral priority

Most critically, India's national investment in R&D as a percentage of GDP remains stagnant at around 0.7%, a figure dwarfed by major innovation economies like the United States, China, South Korea, and Germany, which invest between 2% and 5%. This fiscal timidity impedes the ability to build advanced laboratories, fund cutting-edge equipment, and offer attractive research fellowships that retain top talent.

The contrast in Budget 2026-27 is that while it showcases heavy, strategic capital flows to physical infrastructure such as roads, railways, ports, and manufacturing, the knowledge infrastructure of universities, public research institutes, doctoral fellowships, and academic grants receives only modest, incremental gains. The message is unambiguous: higher education is acknowledged as important but is not positioned as a central, non-negotiable engine of national development. Let's not forget that nations that have ascended to global innovation leadership have done so with the understanding that economic and technological leadership is inextricably and causally linked to academic leadership.

Budget 2026-27, therefore, fails the strategic priority test, despite its aspirational language about knowledge leadership. It offers continuity and minor course corrections when the moment demands transformational investment. If the ambition to be a true *vishwaguru* and knowledge powerhouse is sincere, universities and research institutions must move from the fiscal periphery to its very core. This demands a bold, sustained, and non-negotiable commitment to revamping higher education. Incremental adjustments, even when wrapped in the most optimistic rhetoric, will only perpetuate the ambition gap.

(The writer is a former professor and dean, Christ University, Bengaluru)

Responsibility, reputation, and the moral test of leadership

G KUMAR NAIK

There was a time in Indian public life when resignation was not treated as an admission of guilt but as an acceptance of responsibility. It reflected a belief that holding public office required moral accountability that went beyond legal obligation.

In September 1956, a devastating railway accident claimed 125 lives. Lal Bahadur Shastri, who was serving as railway minister under Jawaharlal Nehru, chose to resign. No court had found him guilty. No official inquiry had declared him personally responsible for the tragedy. However, he believed that as the minister in charge, he bore ultimate responsibility for what had occurred under his leadership. Nehru requested that he remain in office. Nevertheless, the very act of offering his resignation established an important principle. Public office was not a personal entitlement. It was a public trust that required accountability at the highest level.

This approach to leadership was not limited to one individual or one era. In 1986, Ramakrishna Hegde resigned as chief minister following allegations of misconduct, even before the completion of investigations. He was later cleared of wrongdoing. Yet he stepped down at the time because he believed that public confidence in the office mattered more than his continued tenure. The principle was clear. When questions arise about integrity, it is sometimes necessary to step aside until clarity is restored.

Even earlier, in 1936, Jawaharlal Nehru declined repeated invitations to meet Benito Mussolini, the Italian dictator who led a fascist regime and had emerged as one of the most visible authoritarian leaders in Europe before the Second World War. Mussolini had consolidated power in Italy by suppressing political opposition and promoting an aggressive nationalist ideology, and at that time he was widely seen across the world as a symbol of decisive and concentrated power. Many political leaders and

public figures sought meetings with him because association with such authority was considered strategically useful.

However, when global opinion shifted and the destructive consequences of fascism became undeniable, many who had earlier courted such proximity distanced themselves and refused association. Nehru's position, in contrast, did not change with the tide. His refusal was not shaped by convenience or changing global sentiment. It was a consistent expression of his values and his opposition to fascism. By choosing not to engage at a time when engagement was fashionable and advantageous, Nehru demonstrated that leadership required not only interaction with power but also the clarity to reject it when it conflicted with one's principles.

These episodes reflect a common understanding of leadership. Authority was not defined only by the power to act. It was also defined by restraint, by ethical judgment, and by the willingness to accept responsibility even in the absence of direct blame.

In the present context, public discomfort surrounding the so-called Epstein files raises similar questions about standards in public life. The name of a convicted sex offender appears alongside those of influential figures from politics and business. Some have argued that such associations were merely professional, that interactions were part of broader networks of influence, or that engagement with powerful intermediaries is common in global diplomacy and commerce.

Even if no illegality can be established in relation to those whose names appear, the discussion cannot be limited to questions of criminal liability. Individuals who hold public office, particularly those who represent India internationally, have an obligation to exercise careful judgment. To suggest that a meeting occurred because of institutional approval or because the individual involved was influential does not fully address the ethical concern.

Power requires more than compliance with the law. It demands moral clarity and

thoughtful discretion in deciding whom to associate with. In diplomacy and business, access often implies legitimacy. Presence in certain spaces can be interpreted as endorsement. These signals extend beyond personal networks and contribute to how a country is perceived globally.

India's own epics offer insight into this moral dimension of leadership. Bhishma remained loyal to the Kauravas even when Draupadi was humiliated in open court. His loyalty bound him to power, yet his silence has long been viewed as deeply troubling. In contrast, Vibhishana attempted to counsel his brother Ravana and, when he failed, chose to support Rama because he believed it was the just course of action. The contrast underscores a lasting lesson. Allegiance to authority is not the highest value. Commitment to what is right must take precedence.

The question facing contemporary leaders is therefore not limited to whether past associations can be legally defended. It is whether they are willing to uphold a higher

standard of conduct that earlier generations sometimes embraced voluntarily. At one time, resignation was understood as an act of strength rather than weakness. Refusal to engage with disrepute was regarded as a statement of integrity.

Public life cannot function solely on technical compliance with the law. It depends on trust. That trust can erode not only through proven wrongdoing but also through the gradual normalisation of questionable proximity to disrepute. If the standard of accountability is reduced to the mere absence of criminal conduct, the deeper ethic of responsibility diminishes.

History demonstrates that India has produced leaders who chose conscience over convenience. The present moment calls for reflection on whether that higher standard remains an aspiration worth pursuing or whether it has been confined to an earlier chapter of public life.

(The writer is a retired IAS officer and Congress Lok Sabha member from Raichur)

By reaching back to Maoist tactics of “rectification,” the Chinese leader is signalling that control over the gun requires a state of perpetual cleansing

LILY KUO

When Xi Jinping rang in the new year from Beijing, he called on China to remember the legacy of Yan'an, the rural stronghold where Mao Zedong transformed revolutionary guerrilla fighters into a disciplined force under his command that would go on to take the country.

It may have been a hint of what was to come. Yan'an was also where Mao launched his party's first major “rectification,” a campaign of political terror that eliminated rivals and cemented his absolute authority over the party. Three weeks after Xi's speech, China effectively purged the military's top commander Gen Zhang Youxia, who had once been seen as a confidant of Xi's.

Like Mao, Xi is pursuing a kind of spiritual renewal of the party and the military he commands, what he calls constant “self revolution.” And like Mao, that has taken the form of constant purging of enemies, associates and now, those in his inner circle, too. It is a new level of ruthlessness for a man who has already concentrated power in himself to a degree not seen since Mao.

Over the past three years, Xi has essentially ousted five of the six generals in China's top military body, the Central Military Commission, which controls China's armed forces. Only two members are left: Xi himself and a vice chair who has overseen Xi's purges.

“It is quite astonishing,” said Yue Gang, a retired colonel of the People's Liberation Army.

In the weeks after, Chinese officials have offered little explanation as they sought to project normalcy. Xi hosted foreign leaders in Beijing and convened a meeting with party officials on policy work. On Wednesday, he met with military units by video conference and conveyed his greetings for the Lunar New Year. Acknowledging that the past year had been “very unusual and very extraordinary,” Xi sought to show that the rank-and-file were loyal to him, saying that the troops were still “completely reliable and trustworthy.”

Online discussion has been restricted as social media platforms filter search results and comments related to Zhang.

The few official editorials released on the subject hark back to the campaign of ideological cleansing first modelled at Yan'an and suggest that at the heart of the ouster is Xi's control over the military, a powerful empire within the party.

A front-page editorial in the People's Liberation Army Daily characterised the investigation as a necessary hygiene, a process of “uprooting sick trees” and “removing hidden cancer” so that the military would be “reforged and reformed.” Another editorial in the same paper described Xi's leadership as the source of strength, direction, and future” for the military.

“Xi believes he needs to build a foundation of absolute ideological unity and personal loyalty for future battles,” wrote John Garnaut, a founder of Garnaut Global, a geopolitical risk advisory firm. He noted that the language used by the party showed that Xi was drawing on Maoist and



In Xi's purge of the military, a search for absolute loyalty

Stalinist playbooks absorbed in his youth as the son of a revolutionary fighter.

Over his 13 years in power, Xi has often cited Yan'an, the Communist Party's main revolutionary base until 1948, as inspiration for his own culling of cadres as well as a way to signal his own supreme authority in the party in the tradition of Mao. After Xi secured a third term as head of the party, breaking with precedent, he visited the city with his top officials.

He and Zhang also made the pilgrimage to Yan'an in 2024 for a meeting, heavy with symbolism, on “political work” in the Chinese military. Xi exhorted the senior military officers, which included three other senior generals that he would later also purge, to remember their original revolutionary mission.

Visiting the former residences of revolutionary leaders like Mao and Zhou Enlai on that trip, he declared the importance of the party's “absolute leadership over the military.”

“For Xi Jinping, he sees that legacy and that kind of campaign as one of the party's greatest treasures. He wants to go back to history and use those methods,” said Joseph Torigian, a historian of the Chinese Communist Party at American University in Washington. “He thinks he can do it right.”

Securing control over the People's Liberation Army has been the key challenge of every leader since Mao, who immortalised its importance by declaring that “political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.” Yue argued that Xi's predecessor,

Hu Jintao, struggled to manage the military and had been outmaneuvered by two vice chairs of the commission.

“We've had this lesson before,” Yue said, who argued that Zhang may have tried and failed to weaken Xi's hold over the military. The “smooth” take-down of Zhang, he said, shows how “impossible it is to shake the leadership of Xi Jinping.”

“The attempt to undermine the power didn't succeed. Instead, it resulted in a disastrous outcome,” he said.

Since Xi came to power in 2012 he has overseen an intense campaign to clean up the military, where corruption had been on the rise since market reforms in the 1980s and as military spending soared. He sees absolute loyalty as vital to one of his key goals of building a 21st-century, combat-ready force capable of defending China's interests — like its claim over Taiwan.

And as Beijing competes more directly with the United States, ensuring the military's loyalty in times of crisis and possible conflict is even more important.

“The party must always command the gun, never the other way around,” said Chinese military expert Song Zhongping.

When Xi talks about the spirit of Yan'an, he glosses over details of the purging of thousands of party members at Yan'an through psychologically brutal sessions of self-criticism that led some to suicide.

Xi uses some of those methods of political indoctrination, including mandating study sessions of his personalised doctrine, Xi Jinping Thought, and encourag-

ing the reporting of one's peers or superiors for violating Xi's edicts, according to Wen-Hsuan Tsai, a scholar of elite Chinese politics at the Institute of Political Science at Academia Sinica in Taiwan.

“It turns the whole party into a trial of mutual reporting, so no one can be trusted — not your parents, not your superiors, no one,” Tsai said.

“His type of regime needs constant enemies and purges to maintain fear,” he said.

Xi's rectification campaign, while not as bloody or extreme as Mao's, extends across the party apparatus, targeting graft as well as perceived disloyalty. Last year, 983,000 officials were punished for violating party rules, the highest number on record, according to data released by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, the party's internal anti-corruption body.

The sudden removal of senior officials with no explanation has become a hallmark of Xi's rule, inspiring uncertainty and fear among Chinese officials in what analysts say is either a sign of his increasing paranoia or a tactic to keep the leader's enemies, as well as his allies, guessing.

Rather than quietly retire Zhang at the next leadership transition, in 2027, Xi chose to publicly and loudly disown him.

“This purge manifests a position of strength,” said Yun Sun, director of the China Program at the Stimson Centre in Washington. “Xi can move his finger and remove the most powerful leader of the Chinese military.”

The New York Times

Sapiens and a chasm

RAJNI BAKSHI

Two films across a chasm. *Dhurandhar*, with its violence and vicious vengeance, at one end. *Lead on Gandhi*, a documentary with a demanding appeal, at the other end.

By a quirk of circumstance, a link to the new short film about Gandhi was sent to me the morning after I saw *Dhurandhar*. The contrast between the two films is stark, and yet the space in between is alive with possibilities.

The feature film, which has broken box-office records, says: ‘If someone is firing at you, hit back with exponentially greater firepower.’ This is presented as the only ‘right’ thing to do. There are no other options in the universe of *Dhurandhar*.

The four-minute documentary, *Lead on Gandhi*, says Gandhi was not stopped by the three bullets. Instead, he stopped the three bullets of *hate, fear* and *untruth*.

Today most people would challenge this view and point to the proliferation of all three ills. Some would go so far as to say it is the fascination with all three that attracted such large audiences to *Dhurandhar*. The film's narrative is indeed about overlapping and intersecting equations of hatred, fear and consequent violence – gangster vs gangster, Balochis vs Pakistani government, India vs Pakistan and so on.

It is also true that the film does not even hint at the utter futility of all the violence, even as character after character falls – consumed by the same means by which he has lived. This is because the film's message is *ghayal hoon toh ghatak hoon* (wounded thus deadly). Despite impressive technical finesse, the filmmaker lacked confidence about this point getting across through action and dialogue. So, the *ghayal-ghatak* message is flashed across the screen as loud text – twice!

Lead on Gandhi, a modest little documentary with commentary by Kamal Haasan, is not designed to directly address the *ghayal-ghatak* narrative. Its purpose is simply to restate a truth that has emerged across millennia of human experience. Namely, that succumbing to fear and untruth, letting them feed hatred and thus violence – is the road to living hell, precisely the kind of hell depicted in *Dhurandhar*.

Dhurandhar does something insidious. It projects hatred, vengeance and violence as inevitable. Violence is presented as ‘natural’. Opposite it are only two kinds of people – the cowards who beg for mercy and the brave who go into the fray all guns firing till the enemy is vanquished. Yes, violence is natural. The

capacity to strike, to fight back, is a part of the human evolutionary journey. But research in both the natural sciences and social sciences over the last 70 years has decisively shown that other traits – notably cooperation and compassion – played a much greater role in the emergence of Homo sapiens and thus the rise of societies and civilisation. After all, ‘sapien’ is the Latin word for ‘wise, intelligent, knowing’.

Yes, treating the violence of the ‘other side’ as wrong and your own violence as a justified response is an ancient problem. But nuanced research emerging from peace studies scholars has shown that this is not an overpowering reality of the last 10,000 years. Nevertheless, an influential global discourse treats partisan violence as the dominant human impulse. *Dhurandhar* is a small addition to this larger phenomenon.

Violence begets violence – maybe a truism, but it is vital to recognise that this truth has two dimensions. At the individual level, children who are beaten have a higher chance of violent behaviour as adults. At the public level, collective fear induces an acceptance of violence, done on behalf of the in-group, as either self-defence or ‘settling the score’.

Acknowledging these tendencies is vital. Only then is there hope of an effective response to the *ghayal-ghatak* narrative of the film and the political discourse it favours. This means that the reality of hurt must be addressed. While specific characters and their interactions are fictitious, the narrative pivot of *Dhurandhar* is historical events – notably the hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane to Kandahar in 1999 and the terrorist attack on Mumbai in 2008.

What then is a sensitive and constructive response to the dominant narrative, which valorises violent response and equates nonviolence with cowardice or dismisses nonviolence as impractical?

Let us reaffirm and reclaim the core meaning of *ahimsa*, which is – absence of fear. For that which is influenced by fear can never be nonviolence. This is why Gandhi firmly and repeatedly said that if the only choice is between cowering in fear and a violent act – it is better to be violent. But this view comes with a crucial caveat – the act of violence must be contained, controlled and not rooted in any desire to harm the other.

Then there is breathing space to truly be a sapien and tell the difference between ‘settling a score’ and actually solving a conflict.

(The writer is the founder of the YouTube channel Ahimsa Conversations)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 1976

Deccan Herald wins First Prize

New Delhi, February 16

Deccan Herald has won the first prize in the 18th national awards for excellence in printing and designing. And so has its sister paper, *Prajavani*. *Deccan Herald* had previously won a certificate of merit in 1966. *Prajavani* had won the first prize in 1955 and secured the second prize four times and the certificate of merit twice. Among other award winners this year are (English dailies): *The Tribune*, Chandigarh; *The Times of India*, Bombay; and *The Statesman*, Calcutta.

25 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 2001

‘Advani, George derailing peace process’

New Delhi, Feb 16 (DHNS)

While seeking Union government to issue travel documents to the five-member Hurriyat delegation to visit Pakistan, senior Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik today charged Union Ministers L K Advani and George Fernandes with derailing the peace process and suggested that ceasefire should be extended only if the agencies in Jammu and Kashmir are ready to enforce it on ground in letter and spirit. It has been violated and blown to pieces in subsequent extension, he alleged.

Do not fear to be eccentric in opinion, for every opinion now accepted was once eccentric.

-Bertrand Russell

This quote instantly brings to mind one of the greatest intellectual revelations in human history—the heliocentric (sun-centred) theory proposed by Nicolaus Copernicus, who asserted that the earth revolves around the sun. At the time, this idea was dismissed as absurd.

The belief that earth stood at the centre of the universe was deeply embedded in religious, philosophical, and social thinking. Copernicus' theory challenged not just science, but also the religious views.

What was once mocked as eccentricity was later validated through Galileo's telescopic observations and Johannes Kepler's mathematical laws of planetary motion. Galileo, who defended the heliocentric model, paid a heavy price for standing by truth. Condemned by the Catholic Church, he was punished not for being wrong—but for being ahead of his time. His persecution stands as a reminder that societies often resist ideas that threaten established beliefs.

Similarly, the ancient understanding that the earth is spherical—proposed by thinkers such as Pythagoras, Plato,

and Aristotle—was once dismissed in favour of flat-earth notions. Today, this knowledge is taken for granted, but it took centuries of courage, reason, and intellectual persistence for such truths to be accepted.

This pattern is not limited to Western history. Indian mythology, too, reflects the same timeless truth. In the *Ramayana*, Ravana's brother Vibhishana, openly acknowledged the greatness of Rama and warned Ravana of the destruction that would follow the abduction of Sita. For speaking the truth, Vibhishana was exiled from Lanka. His loyalty to righteousness was ridiculed before it



was recognised as wisdom. Even Sita's unwavering faith in Rama's rescue was mocked in Ravana's court.

Truth, in both history and mythology, follows a recurring pattern, it is first ridiculed, then resisted, and finally revered.

Across cultures and centuries, those who spoke the truth endured rejection, punishment, and isolation. Yet time transformed them into true heroes. New ideas are the seeds of new realities. Great thoughts often appear irrational in their infancy state, because they challenge the most prevalent notion.

Eccentric ideas, when rooted in truth, do not remain eccentric forever. They become the future.

Biklu Shiva murder: CID grills BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Monday grilled BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj even as he maintained that he had no connection with the alleged murder of rowdy Biklu Shiva alias Shivakumar.

Basavaraj is in the custody of the CID till February 21. According to sources in the CID, the investigators were questioning the MLA on whether it was he who ordered the hit on Shiva, 40, who was brutally murdered outside his home in Meanee Avenue Road in Bharathinagar in East B'lruru on the night of July 15.

"So far, the suspect has maintained that he had nothing to do with the murder and is being falsely accused," a highly-placed source said.

The BJP MLA is accused of backing the assailants who confessed to killing Shiva, allegedly following a past rivalry and property disputes.

The investigators are also checking if the MLA had any links with the alleged proper-

ty dispute.

The complainant, the deceased's mother, alleged that Shivakumar was in the real estate business and had registered a General Power of Attorney (GPA) for a property in his name in 2023.

According to the FIR, in which Basavaraj was named accused number 5, Shivakumar had built a compound around the property, and some workers were living in a shed there, who were chased away in one instance by some of the suspects.

The complainant later took a U-turn and said that she had not named the BJP MLA in her complaint. "The police themselves added the names. My son first gave a complaint naming the BJP MLA. Maybe they (police) added it from that," Shivakumar's mother claimed.

Further, the CID is also checking Basavaraj's relationship with the prime suspect, Jagadish alias Jagga.

Jagadish was at large following the murder and was detained at the airport in New Delhi in August last year, upon his arrival from Dubai.

The investigators are also probing who funded Jagadish's travel and helped him evade the authorities.



Byrathi Basavaraj

CMC can't insist upon trade licence for film exhibition: High court

'Film exhibition governed by Cinemas (Regulation) Act, 1964'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has held that a trade licence under Section 256 of the Karnataka Municipalities Act cannot be insisted upon solely for the exhibition of cinematographic films.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj said this while partly allowing the petition filed by Kesari Enterprises, Bengaluru.

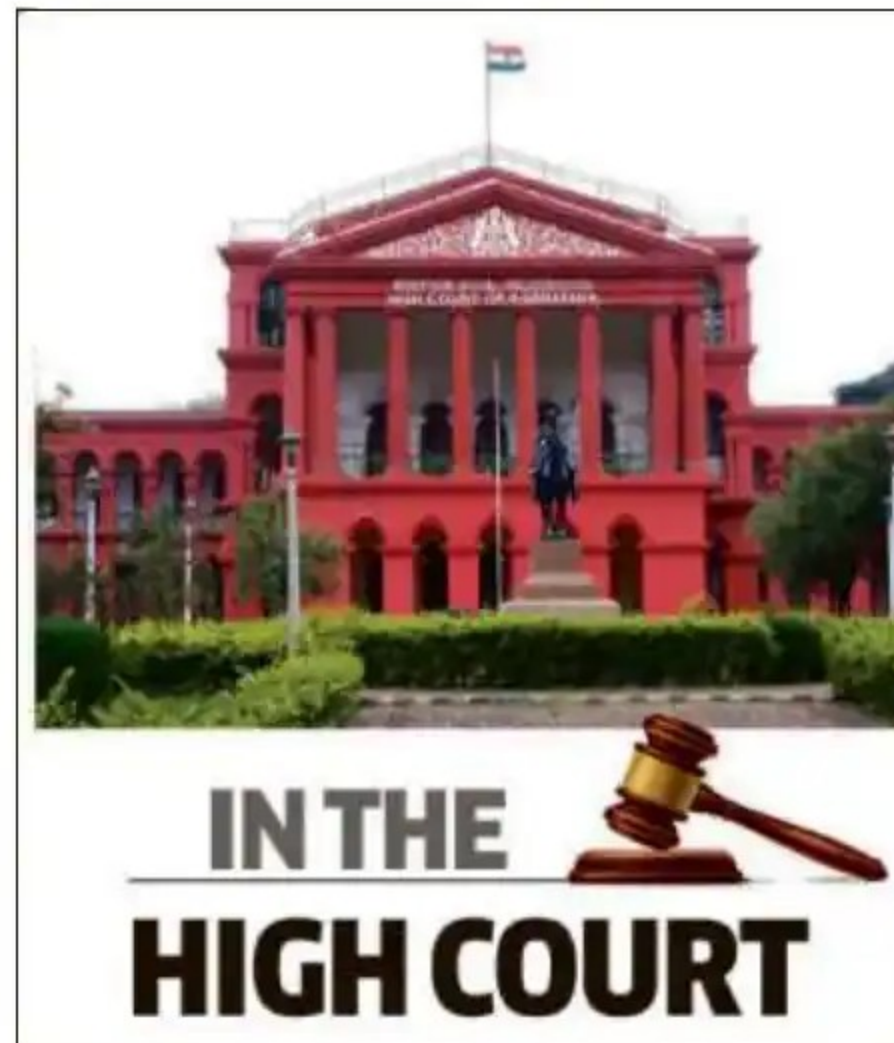
The petitioners challenged the December 9, 2024, notice issued by the City Municipal Council (CMC), Chintamani, Chikkaballapur district, directing them to obtain a trade licence under Section 256 of the Karnataka Municipalities (KM) Act, for screening the films in a local cinema theatre.

The petitioners contended that running a cinema theatre is regulated under the Karnataka Cinemas (Regulation) Act, and not by the Municipalities under Section 256 of the Act.

Once a licence is granted by the deputy commissioner under the special enactment, no further trade licence under the Karnataka Municipalities Act is required for exhibition, he contended.

The local body submitted that the petitioners must obtain a trade licence for exhibiting films to the public. The exhibition of films constitutes a commercial activity conducted within municipal limits and, therefore, attracts regulatory oversight under the KM Act.

It was further argued that ancillary commercial establishments, including food vending units and similar businesses, require licences and regulatory permissions.



the premises. "It is declared that the activity of exhibition of cinematographic films, being regulated under the Karnataka Cinemas (Regulation) Act, 1964, does not fall within Item Nos. 2 and 3 of Part I of Schedule XIII to the Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964 and therefore, does not attract the requirement of a trade licence under Section 256 solely on that ground," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said, while setting aside the notice asking the petitioners to obtain a trade licence under the KM Act.

The court further said, "It is clarified that if the petitioners are carrying on any ancillary commercial activities within the premises, including but not limited to food vending businesses or any other trade falling within Part I or Part II of Schedule XIII, it shall be incumbent upon the petitioners to obtain appropriate licences in accordance with law before carrying on such activities, either directly or through vendors, contractors or third parties."

After perusing the statutes, the court noted that both enactments must be interpreted in a manner that allows each to operate within its intended field without rendering the other nugatory.

The petitioner cannot rely upon their cinema licence to bypass municipal regulation of independent commercial operations conducted within

NGT clears controversial...

Nicobar project, from Page 1

"We find that adequate safeguards have been provided in the EC conditions and in the first round of litigation the tribunal had refused to interfere in the EC. The remaining issues noted by the tribunal in the first round of litigation have been dealt with by the high-powered committee. Considering the strategic importance of the project and taking into account the other relevant considerations, we do not find any good ground to interfere," the NGT said in the order.

The tribunal quoted a 2023 order of the NGT and the recommendations of the high-powered committee to underline the strategic impor-

ance of the project, but ruled that the committee's report could not be shared as it was confidential in nature.

The bench also ruled that there were adequate safeguards for corals and three new wildlife sanctuaries were identified at Little Nicobar Island, Menchal and Mercoe Islands for conservation and protection of Leatherback turtle, Megapode and corals.

In a reaction, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the NGT verdict was disappointing but it was not the last word as the matter was still under argument in the Calcutta High Court.

"The decision of the NGT giving its approval to the Great Nicobar project is

deeply disappointing. There is clear evidence that the project will have disastrous ecological impacts," Ramesh said.

"The conditions for its clearance, that the NGT draws reference to, will do little to deal with these long-term consequences. The matter is, however, still under argument in the Calcutta High Court that now is the only beacon of hope," the former environment minister said in a social media post.

In 2023, the NGT dismissed another set of petitions challenging regulatory clearances to the project even as activists claimed that the mega infrastructure project would adversely impact the pristine island's flora and fauna, and the island's tribal communities.

Death penalty for trio in Koppal...

Gangavathi, from Page 1

"Bibhas died due to drowning in the canal. Pankaj did not know how to swim but Daniels saved him," Nagalakshmi said.

"Since the offences in-

volved were gang rape, murder, attempt to murder and extortion, Judge Sadananda Naik awarded them capital punishment under Section 103 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita," the prosecutor said.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ
ಐ: ಯಾದಗಿರಿ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08443-256330
E-mail: itstaff_ulb_yadgiri@yahoo.com, Website: www.yadgiri@yahoo.com

ಸಂ: ಸಸಯಾ:ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ:ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್:2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:12-02-2026.

-: ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ :- -: ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿ:-

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ಇವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000ರ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಮ್ಮತೆ 2.0 ರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ್ **DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK INDENT 54504** ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರೋಟೊಲನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರೋಟೊಲನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-4 ರ Standard Tender Documentಗಳ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> ರ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಅನ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.yadgircity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13-02-2026 ರಂದು 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ 2) ಪೂರ್ವ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-02-2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 3) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27-02-2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.30ರ ವರೆಗೆ 4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02-03-2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06-03-2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಸಹಿ/- ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ

ವಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/529/ಕ್ರಿ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
FOOD SAFETY AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION
Office of the Principal Govt. College of Pharmacy,
No. 2. P Kalingarao Road, Bangalore-560027. Phone no. 080-22222681

No:FSDA/2025-26/SE0028 Date: 16.02.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Tender Document System)
Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (e- procurement) only

Tenders are invited by the Member Secretary, Tender Inviting Authority, Govt. College of Pharmacy, Bangalore-560027. Short Term Tenders are invited by the Member Secretary, Tender Inviting Authority, Govt. College of Pharmacy, Bengaluru-560027 for AMC for Software Maintenance at Board of Examining Authority (D.Pharm), 3rd Floor, #2 P. Kalinga Rao Road, Subbaiah Circle, Bengaluru-560027.

Tender documents downloadable from <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from **16.02.2026 to 24.02.2026, 17:30 Hrs**. Queries deadline: **19.02.2026, 17:30 Hrs**. Technical bid opens: **27.02.2026, 11:30 AM**; Financial bid opens after: **02.03.2026**.

If the tender opening day falls on a public Holiday, then the tenders will be opened on next working day. Further details can be obtained from the office of the Principal, #2 P. Kalingarao Road, Bangalore-560027.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
Tender Inviting Authority, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/5666/Zen/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
RURAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY & SANITAION
DEPARTEMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA .
Phone No.: 08194-234488 e-mail: eerdwsc.chd@gmail.com
Tender Notification No: EE/RDWS&SD/CTA/Tender/ 2025-26/ 1097 Date: 13.02.2026

Tender Notification

Through e-procurement

Tender has been invited for the following work in Two cover system through kppp-procurement. Eligible tenders may obtain the details and tender documents and submitted the filled tender online through website view.<http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Chitradurga District Hiriyur Taluhs Total 02 Works, Rs. 138.74 Lakhs Last Date for Receipt of Bids Dt: 02.03.2026, Technical Bid Opening 03.03.2026 and Financial Bid Opening 04.03.2026 For Further details Office of Executive Engineer and also through e-port web site <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
RDWS&S Division, Chitradurga
676/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Superintending Engineer, Zone-1,
18th Floor, Public Utility Building, Bengaluru - 560001.

No: SE/BCCC/Z-1/TEND/04/2025-26 Date: 16-02-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Superintending Engineer, Zone-1, BCCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors / Firm registered in BCCC or equivalent registration with Labour Department or any State Government Organizations for the Collection of Parking Fees for Various Roads in Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Zone-1 as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description
1	Collection of Parking Fees for Cambridge Road, Wood Street and Castle Street in Shanthinagara Division. Minimum Reserve Annual License fee (in Rs.): 72,90,000/-, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,46,000/-
2	Collection of Parking Fees for Magrath, Church Street and Museum Road in Shanthinagara Division. Minimum Reserve Annual License fee (in Rs.): 74,70,000/-, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,50,000/-
3	Collection of Parking Fees for 100 Feet Indiranagara in C.V. Raman Nagara Division. Minimum Reserve Annual License fee (in Rs.): 87,30,000/-, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,75,000/-

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from **17-02-2026**. 2) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **25-02-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Zone-1, BCCC, 18th Floor, Public Utility Building, Bengaluru**. 3) Tenders must be Submitted Online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on or before **16.00 Hours on 03-03-2026**. 4) Technical Bids will be Opened on the Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> at the **Office of the Superintending Engineer, Zone-1, BCCC, Bengaluru on 05-03-2026 at 16.30 Hours**. Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Zone-1, BCCC.

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department)
KARNATAKA RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
III Floor, Gramenabhiruddhi Bhavana,
Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone No.: 080-29710021/ 22 / 23 / 24 Fax: 080-29710025
E-mail: coo.krrda.karbgng@gmail.com Website: <http://www.krrda.in>

No:KRRDA/TA-03/JE-02/208/TND NOT-8/2025-26/3060 Date: 16-02-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION-8

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, KRRDA invites tenders under **2025-26 Financial Incentive Scheme** through KPP Portal.

Calendar of tendering events are as follows:

1) Date of Pre Bid Meeting: **20-02-2026 at 11.00 AM**. 2) Last Date for Online Submission of Bids: **24-02-2026 upto 5.00 PM**. 3) Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **25-02-2026 at 5:05 PM onwards**. 4) Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **27-02-2026 at 5.00 PM onwards or After Completion of Technical Bid Evaluation**.

For any information, the Executive Engineer, KRRDA may be contacted. Further tender details can be obtained from the Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Note: The Bidders submitting tender for SC, ST, CAT-I and CAT-II(A) allotted tenders should upload the Caste Certificate and Domicile Certificate for having resided in the State of Karnataka for more than 10 years issued by the Competent Authority in the KPP Portal along with their bid compulsorily. Otherwise such Bids will be summarily rejected.

Any further corrigendum and addendum relating to the said tender notification will be published only in the KPP Portal.

Sd/- Tendering Officer and
Executive Engineer
KRRDA, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/5672/Advento/2025-26

Nashik currency heist case turns out to be fake

MUMBAI, DHNS: Nearly five months after a sensational case of assault, kidnapping and theft of demonetised Rs 2,000 notes valued at around Rs 400 crore was reported, it turned out to be fake.

The Nashik Rural police, who formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) and carried out a detailed investigation, found that no such robbery had taken place.

The Maharashtra police took the help of the Karnataka police and the Goa police to crack the case. During the incident, the Nashik police SIT found conflicting accounts

of complainant Sandeep Patil. The Rs 2,000 currency note was withdrawn from circulation in May 2023, though it still has the status of a legal tender.

The so-called incident dates back to 22 October 2025, when two container trucks carrying a massive quantity of cash allegedly went missing in the forested and accident-prone Chorla Ghat in Khanapur taluk in Belagavi district. According to the police, there was no evidence of any truck carrying such a large amount of cash, the news agencies said.

Owners seek relief on...

Property tax, from Page 1

"After completing 75% of the data entry, the website goes blank when I try to select the assessment year," he added, urging the corporation to set up a helpdesk or appoint designated officials at ARO offices to assist residents.

Another resident, from Jayanagar, said he received a message citing a mismatch between the declared area and measurements identified through drone imagery. "The demand runs into lakhs. The last time such notices were issued, the BBMP had allowed property owners to pay only the differential amount without penalty and interest. Similar relief should be extended now," he said.

Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner (Revenue), Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), said property owners could file objections in case of errors.

"We are, however, not planning a one-time settlement scheme immediately, as it requires the government's approval," he said.

The final demand notices require property owners to show cause within 15 days as to why the reassessment should not be confirmed. Affected residents say the time is too short.

Former councillor Padmanabh Reddy urged the government to handle enforcement with sensitivity.

"For the corporation, these are mere numbers. For residents, even Rs 10,000 is a burden. Waiving penalty and interest would prevent unnecessary hardship," he said.

Poll malpractice: Cong MLA...

Cong MLA, from Page 1

The petitioner said the affidavit did not disclose assets and liabilities in Form 26 with regard to Subbareddy's savings accounts, and accounts belonging to his wife and daughter.

The petitioner further stated that Subbareddy filed false information in relation to agriculture properties

owned by him and his daughter.

The petition had stated that while a candidate is required to disclose all bank account details, including current account with up-to-date balance, Subbareddy has not only failed to disclose the current account details of several business entities but has suppressed their existence altogether.

Summit allays fears over AI...

AI, from Page 1

Vineet Nayar, founder chairman of Sampark Foundation and former CEO of HCL Technologies, said that while 50% of current jobs will go because of AI, 50% more jobs will also be created, which would need skilled manpower to handle AI.

He described automation as an "economic inevitability" rather than a distant possibility, urging professionals to identify and acquire the spe-

cific skills required in their fields.

Founder of Info Edge (which owns Naukri.com) Sanjeev Bikhchandani's direct message to young professionals was clear: "Don't worry about policy. Just think what you should do so that AI does not make you lose your job and instead help you get a job."

He encouraged learning 10-15 practical AI tools to boost productivity rather than fearing replacement.

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬಾಡುಸಿ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಉನಸಬಿ:2.ಸಿಆರ್:2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16-02-2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ Standard Bid Document K.W-3 ರ ನಿಯಮ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಗಳನ್ವಯ (ಮೌಢ್ಯಾನ್ವಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವಂತೆ) e-procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದವರಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ಮೌಢ್ಯಾನ್ವಿತ <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

1) ತುಂಬಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02-03-2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
2) ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03-03-2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.01 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಬಿಡ್ಡುದಾರರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವ ಅನುದಾನ
1	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENTS3594/ CALL-2	7310000.00	109650.00	12 ತಿಂಗಳು

ಸಹಿ/- ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ಬಾಡುಸಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chickpete Division, No. 194,
T. Mariyappa Road, Opp. to Lalbagh South Gate, Siddapura Circle,
Bengaluru-560011.

No. EE/CKP/E-PROC/12/2025-26 Date: 16-02-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Chickpete Division, BCCC, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BCCC invites Short term Request for Proposal for **Parking Fee Collection at Vacant land near National College, K.R. Road, Bengaluru**.

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from **16.02.2026**. (2) Date of Pre-bid meeting : **25.02.2026 upto 3.00 pm at the above office**. (3) Last date & time for uploading online queries : **25.02.2026 upto 2.30 pm**. (4) Last Date & Time for uploading of RFP document: **03.03.2026 at 4.00 pm**. (5) Date & time of opening of RFP: **04.03.2026 at 4.30 pm**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Chikkapet Division, BCCC

9-judge SC bench to hear Sabarimala review

Court sets April 7 start for women's rights petitions

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS



Devotees wait at Lord Ayyappa temple, in Sabarimala. PTI FILE

FINAL HEARING

- Proceedings to conclude by April 22; written submissions due March 14
- Krishna Kumar Singh appointed nodal counsel for review petitioners
- Shashwati Pari appointed nodal counsel for those opposing review
- Senior advocate K Parameshwar and Shivam Singh named amicus curiae

The Supreme Court on Monday said that a nine-judge bench will begin its final hearing on April 7 in a batch of petitions relating to discrimination against women in religions and at religious places, including Kerala's Sabarimala temple.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi said that the Constitution Bench, to be constituted by the CJI, will conduct the crucial hearing from April 7 and conclude proceedings on April 22.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said he supported the pleas for review of the Sabarimala verdict that allowed the entry of women of all age groups in the sacred hilltop shrine in Kerala.

Bench-appointed advocate Krishna Kumar Singh is the nodal counsel for parties supporting the review of the Sabarimala verdict.

It also appointed Shashwati Pari as the nodal counsel for those opposing the review of the verdict.

"We also deem it appropriate that senior advocate K Parameshwar, along with Shivam Singh, be appointed as amicus curiae. Singh shall submit before this court the stand taken by all parties," the SC said.

"The nine-judge bench will begin hearing the Sabarimala review case on April 7 at 10.30 am. The review petitioners, or those supporting them, shall be heard from April 7 to April 9. Those opposing the review shall be heard from April 14 to April 16. Rejoinder submissions, if any, will be taken up on April 21, followed by the final and concluding submissions by the learned amicus, which are expected to be completed by April 22," the order said.

A five-judge Constitution

'We're old-fashioned': SC urges caution before pre-marital sex

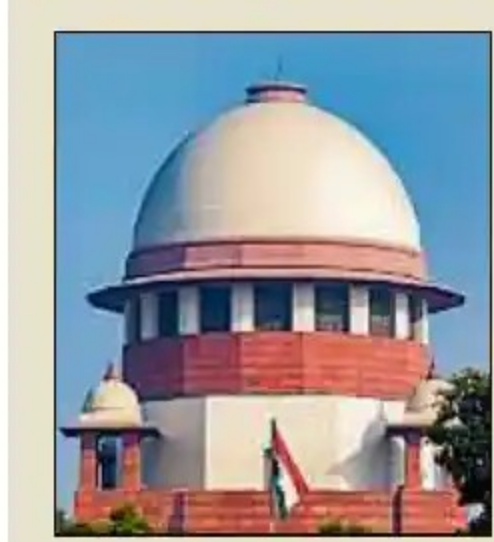
Questions woman's Dubai trip in false promise of marriage case

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday advised a boy and a girl to be careful and exercise circumspection before engaging in pre-marital sex.

A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan said,

"Before marriage, a boy and a girl are strangers, whatever may be the thick and thin of their relationship. We fail to understand how they can be indulging in a physical relationship before marriage. Maybe we are old-fashioned. You must be very careful; nobody should believe anybody before



TRUST & CONSENT

- Bench says before marriage, boy and girl are 'strangers'
- Woman says accused met her on matrimonial site
- Claims intimate videos recorded without consent, threats made

■ Court suggests mediation over conviction in consensual relationships

marriage."

The court was hearing a bail plea filed by a man arrested for rape on the false promise

met her on a matrimonial site, promised to marry her despite already being married, and then solemnised a second marriage with another woman while engaging in sexual relations with her in Delhi and Dubai.

The bench asked why she had travelled all the way to Dubai, saying that if the woman was particular about marriage, she should not have undertaken such travel before it.

"It is consensual. She should not have gone before marriage if she was so strict about it. We will send them to mediation.

Relief for Revanth in SC/ST Act case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to consider a plea against the Telangana High Court order quashing a 2016 FIR against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy under sections of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and the IPC.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi said political battles should not be fought in courts.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, on the CM's behalf, described petitioner N Peddi Raju as an adventurous litigant.



Revanth Reddy

The court, meanwhile, pointed out that the HC "minutely considered the facts of the case and found that no prima facie case is made out against respondent number 2 (Revanth Reddy)".

The apex court said it was not giving a clean chit to Revanth Reddy, but the HC's views seemed to be "perfectly fine" and more plausible in the facts and circumstances of the case.

Luthra said earlier Raju had levelled allegations against the HC judge in the case. The HC quashed the FIR against Revanth Reddy in July last year.

The apex court earlier took a very strong note of the scandalous and scurrilous allegations made against the HC judge who passed the order in Revanth Reddy's favour.

The bench, however, closed the contempt proceedings against Raju and two lawyers after cautioning them that such conduct undermined the integrity of the judicial system.

Top court flags 'politicisation', rejects plea against Sarma

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday declined to consider pleas for action against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in connection with a viral video allegedly showing him taking aim and firing at members of a particular community.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi said the jurisdictional high court could examine all the issues the petitioners raised.

The court, however, asked the political parties to show mutual respect and a sense of restraint, and whatever they want to express should be within the constitutional morality.

"What prevents you from going to the HC unless the HC has also become a political battleground?" the bench asked senior advocate A M Singhvi who, appearing for petitioners, said the matter affected the fundamentals of Constitutional pillars, oath, Articles 14, 15, and 21, and that everything that can go to the HC could also come to top court.

Singhvi said petitioners are seeking the constitution of



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during the Budget session of the Assembly in Guwahati on Monday. PTI

a special investigation team (SIT) in Assam.

The bench said the HC could take people from outside to set up the SIT.

"This is asking for the number one person in Assam, and therefore, a certain distance from Assam is necessary. It is an appropriate case for an Article 32 petition," he pleaded.

The bench, however, said, "The problem is unfortunately whenever there are elections... This is also a new emerging trend that whenever an election in A state, B state comes, this court becomes a political battleground."

Singhvi contended the Assam CM was a habitual, consistent, and continuous offender.

The bench asked Singhvi to raise all these arguments before the HC. "This is not the first case. Please do not undermine the Constitutional courts. This is an absolutely disturbing trend that every matter lands up in the Supreme Court," the bench added.

The apex court also said that it had to deal with its own arrears, and the entire effort was to demoralise the high court and a very calculated move to undermine HCs.

It explained it was objecting to the shortcut method only because the Supreme Court matter would come in the social media.

Sabarimala case: Govt protecting devotees' beliefs, says minister

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Indicating a change in Kerala's Left Democratic Front (LDF) government's stand on the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple women's entry issue, state Law Minister P Rajeev said on Monday that the regime would always stand for protecting devotees' beliefs.

"This is not a question of yes or no, but seven complicated questions involving Constitutional rights about the freedom of religion and religious practices. The government will have to take a balanced position by considering devotees' as well as social reformers' views. However, the government will always protect the beliefs of devotees. The government's stand will be communicated to the Supreme Court at the required time after detailed examination," Rajeev told reporters on Monday after the Supreme Court decided to seek the opinion of all parties involved in the matter before March 14.

In a bid to wriggle out of the criticisms that the LDF government earlier backed the demand to lift the ban on the entry of women aged 10-50 to the temple, Rajeev said it was suggested in the earlier affidavit filed by the then government that a commission of Hindu scholars and experts on social issues should examine the matter in detail.

Chaos mars opening day of AI summit

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The first day of the India AI Impact Summit and Expo at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Monday witnessed chaos, drawing sharp criticism on social media over poor planning and organisation.

Attendees from India and abroad reported widespread issues, including patchy mobile network coverage, long queues at entry points, inadequate signage for directions and facilities, overcrowding in hallways, and limited access to basic amenities such as water and food.

Many participants, including exhibitors, delegates, startup founders and VIP speakers, found themselves stranded outside the venue or stuck in disorganised crowds, especially amid heightened security



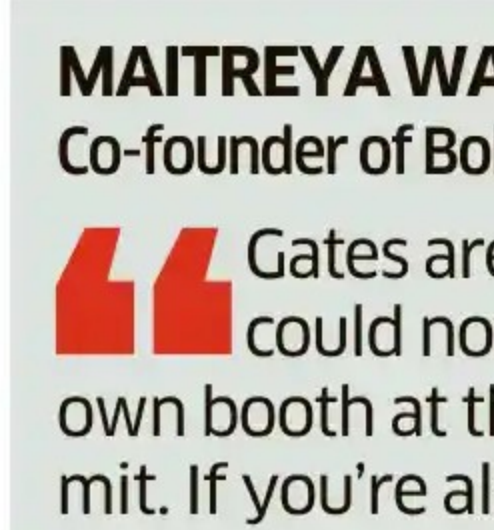
Visitors during the India AI Impact Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi, on Monday. pti

preparations ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's inauguration scheduled for 5 pm.

Complaints highlighted a lack of clear communication from on-ground staff and security personnel, sudden venue clearances, and inconsistent instructions, which left some feeling displaced despite travelling long distances.

Social media users vented frustration over the contrast between the media portrayal of celebrations and the on-ground reality of disarray.

One notable post on X came from Punit Jain, founder of Reskill, "...meanwhile - exhibitors, delegates, startup founders left outside. No water. No clarity. Media shows celebration.



MAITREYA WAGH
Co-founder of Bola

■ Gates are closed so could not access my own booth at the AI Summit. If you're also stuck outside and wanted to visit the Bola team, dm me.

Ground reality was chaos. If access was limited to select high-value guests, just say it upfront. Don't mobilise the ecosystem and then displace them. This is not how we build India's AI future."

Other attendees echoed similar sentiments, pointing to endless waiting times, cash-only food systems (with no UPI support in some cases), poor network reception inside the venue, and overall mismanagement despite the presence of Big Tech companies and global enterprises.

First exam must for Class 10 students: CBSE on 2-exam policy

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Monday clarified that Class 10 students must appear in the first edition of the board examinations to be eligible for the second edition under the two-exam policy introduced this academic year.

In a notification issued ahead of the board exams, which begin Tuesday, the board said only those students who sat for at least three subjects in the first examination would be allowed to take the second examination.

Students who did not appear in the first edition would not be permitted to write the second edition, it said.

The two-exam system provides Class 10 students with

two opportunities within the same academic session to improve their performance.

Under the policy, the first examination will be treated as the main board examination, while the second will serve as an additional opportunity for eligible candidates.

The CBSE said the eligibility condition of appearing in at least three subjects in the first edition was mandatory.

As per the guidelines, students who appear in the first examination can choose to take the second examination in one or more subjects, subject to the board's rules.

The better of the two scores will be considered for the final result, in accordance with the new policy's provisions.

Ex-bureaucrats accuse Assam CM of hate speech

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Nearly 100 former civil servants have criticised Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for his "dog whistle" against Bengali Muslims in the poll-bound state and urged the Supreme Court to take suo motu cognisance of his "hate speeches".

Under the aegis of the Constitutional Conduct Group (CCG), they said in an open letter that President Droupadi Murmu should intervene "before it is too late" to "suitably advise" Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sarma to abide by their oaths to the Constitution and the dignity of their respective offices.

"Even judging by the ugliness of the hate speeches being used by politicians all over the country these days, particularly when states are facing elections, the nastiness of the recent speech of Himanta Biswa Sarma, comes as a shock to citizens of this country," they said.

The open letter was signed by 84 former bureaucrats, including Shivshankar Menon, Wajahat Habibullah, G K Pillai, K Sujatha Rao, M G Devasahayam, Aruna Roy, Julio Ribeiro, Vappala Balachandran and Meeran C Borwankar.

According to Sarma's understanding, they said, there are no Bengali Muslims in India who are Indian citizens and all such people should be thrown out of the country.



Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan during the launch of INS Krishna, first of the three Cadet Training Ships (CTS), at M/s L&T Shipbuilding, Kattupalli, Chennai. pti

GUIDANCE 3.0

'Child-centred AI a responsibility': Unicef urges 10 steps

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Unicef's Guidance on AI and Children 3.0, released on the sidelines of the Artificial Intelligence summit in New Delhi on Monday, urges governments to mandate child rights impact assessments in AI strategies, policies, laws, and regulations. The U agency also stresses the need to protect children's data and privacy, calling for sensitive handling of children's issues in drafting AI policies.

The guidelines were released

during the session 'AI & Children: Turning Principles into Practice for Safe, Inclusive and Empowering AI', organised by FICCI and Unicef during the AI Impact Summit 2026.

As part of the guidelines, now in their third iteration, Unicef has recommended 10 steps that governments, authorities and business stakeholders involved in designing, developing, deploying or using AI systems must follow. This includes ensuring regulatory frameworks, oversight and compliance for child-centred AI, ensuring safety for children, protecting children's data

and privacy, ensuring non-discrimination and fairness for children, and providing transparency, explainability and accountability for children.

The recommendations call for respect for human and child rights through responsible AI practices—supporting children's best interests, development, and well-being; ensuring inclusion of and for children; preparing and skilling them for present and future developments in AI.

Thomas Davin, Global Director at Unicef's Office of Innovation, said that AI is reshaping the world, often faster than our ability to fully un-

derstand its long-term effects. "We believe this technology can deliver transformational gains for children, but only if we treat this moment as a genuine societal shift and govern it accordingly. Child-centred AI is not optional—it is a responsibility shared by governments, industry and all those shaping these systems," he said.

Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, while releasing the guidelines, said there is a need for a safe, inclusive, and empowering AI framework for children.

'Digital hawala': Mule accounts spark cyber-terror alarm in J&K

Security agencies warn of new-age terror finance threat

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Security agencies probing financial crime in Jammu and Kashmir have uncovered an expansive network of “mule accounts” — bank accounts used to channel and launder proceeds from online scams — and warned that the

system’s rapid growth could be exploited as a new-age terror-funding conduit.

Over the past three years, investigators have identified and frozen over 8,000 such accounts in the Union Territory, a senior official said, underlining how cyber fraud syndicates layer stolen money through multiple accounts before converting it into cryptocurrency to mask its origin.

Mule accounts are typically controlled by intermediaries — locally recruited “mulers” — who offer access to account holders in exchange for a cut of the illicit proceeds. Once

funds from fake investment apps, phishing scams or illegal gaming platforms land in these accounts, they are rapidly dispersed into others or funnelled into crypto wallets often set up using VPNs, complicating traceability.

A coordinated operation by the Counter-Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police in early January saw raids at 22 locations across the Valley and the detention of 22 suspects as part of a broader financial crime and cyberterror probe. Seized materials included digital devices and financial records

BEYOND GUNS

- Security agencies uncover expansive network of mule accounts
- Over 8,000 accounts frozen in 3 years amid cybercrime probe
- Fraud syndicates launder scam proceeds, convert funds into crypto
- Locally recruited 'mulers' act as intermediaries for illicit deals

linked to alleged laundering via mule accounts.

Officials describe the emergence of such digital networks as symptomatic of a broader shift in terror financing patterns in the region. Since the National Investigation Agency began targeting traditional hawala and cross-border funding channels linked to militancy in 2017, conventional cash routes have shrunk significantly.

Among its high-profile actions, the agency raided 15 locations in Jammu and Kashmir in February 2024 in a terror-funding case connected to the proscribed Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) Jammu and Kashmir, seizing documents, digital

devices and over Rs 20 lakh in cash.

The JeI was banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in 2019, and the ban was extended in 2024, with government records citing continued involvement in activities prejudicial to national security, including alleged fund diversion to banned militant outfits such as Hizbul Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Taiba.

In parallel, agencies such as the Jammu and Kashmir State Investigation Agency and police units have seized immovable properties and assets suspected of being used to

finance secessionist and terror acts, part of a sustained crackdown that also involves freezing accounts and dismantling funding conduits.

Security planners caution that while overt militancy has declined in the Valley over the past decade, the financial landscape has become more complex, with cyber-enabled mechanisms like mule accounts and crypto-linked “digital hawala” networks posing fresh challenges to law enforcement. Officials say disrupting these shadow financial chains is now as critical as kinetic action in counter-terror strategy.

J&K reopens 14 tourist spots after Pahalgam terror attack

SRINAGAR, DHNS: Tourists can now explore more of Jammu and Kashmir’s scenic beauty as the administration announced the re-opening of 14 destinations across the Union Territory that had been closed following last year’s Pahalgam terror attack.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha confirmed the move on Monday after a comprehensive security review. In a post on the social media platform ‘X’, the Lt Governor stated that the decision was taken following a “thorough security review and discussion.”

He directed the immediate resumption of visitor access to 11 sites in the Kashmir Valley and three in the Jammu region.

The newly accessible attractions include 11 in the Kashmir Valley—Yousmarg, Doodhpathri, Dandipora Park (Kokernag), Peer Ki Gali, Padpawan (Shopian), Astanpora, and Asia’s largest Tulip Garden in Srinagar—and three in Jammu: Devi Pindi in Reasi, Mahu Mangat in Ramban, and Mughal Maidan in Kishtwar. Gurez, Athwatoo, and Bangus in north Kashmir and Ramkund in Ramban are expected to reopen after snow clearance.

The phased reopening since mid-2025 has steadily restored access to high-altitude valleys, remote plateaus, and popular picnic spots.

Gangster, 2 Pak nationals escape from juvenile home in Jammu

JAMMU, PTI: Three inmates, including two Pakistani nationals, escaped from a juvenile home in the border area of Jammu after allegedly attacking and injuring two police personnel on duty on Monday, officials said.

The incident occurred at around 5.15 pm at the juvenile home in R S Pura, they said.

“The three inmates—gangster Karajeet Singh alias Gugga, a resident of Dablehar in R S Pura, and Pakistani nationals Mohammad Suna-ullah and Ahsan Anwar—allegedly attacked the policemen before fleeing the facility,” a police official said.

Two policemen, identified as SPO Vinay and head constable Praveen, suffered injuries, the officials said, adding that police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated an investigation.

The injured personnel have been hospitalised, they added.

A purported video of the gangster, said to be associated with the Khauff gang, resorting to a few rounds of firing inside the juvenile home, went viral on social media, drawing public concern.

The police are investigating how a locally-made pistol reached the inmate.

JEE-Main results: 12 candidates score 100 percentile

NEW DELHI, PTI: Twelve candidates have bagged the perfect 100 score in the engineering entrance exam JEE-Main 2026, with the maximum of them hailing from Rajasthan, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Monday.

More than 13.04 lakh candidates had appeared for the first edition of the crucial exam. Among the candidates who have secured the National Testing Agency score of 100, three are from Rajasthan, two from Andhra Pradesh, and one each from Delhi, Bihar, Odisha, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Telangana.

All 12 candidates are male. According to officials, the NTA score is not the same as the percentage of marks obtained, but normalised scores.

Former Assam Congress chief resigns ahead of Assembly polls

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

In an impending setback to the Opposition Congress in Assam, Bhupen Kumar Borah, a senior leader and former president of the party’s state unit, resigned

on Monday, weeks before the Assembly elections.

Borah, who served as the Chief of the party’s state unit between 2021 and 2025,

sent his resignation to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday morning, expressing his dismay over the way the party was preparing to take on the ruling BJP and its allies in the ensuing polls.

“I am worried over future of the party and I have clearly highlighted the same in my resignation letter,” Borah told reporters after submitting his resignation. As there were reports about possibility of Borah joining BJP, AICC in-charge of Assam, Jitendra Singh, Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Gaurav Gogoi, beside others met him and requested him to withdraw the resignation letter. Borah, however, said he sought time till Tuesday morning to take a final call on their request.

Sources said Borah was unhappy over Gogoi’s handling of the seat sharing with other Opposition parties for the Assembly polls.



Congress leaders protest amid a row surrounding former General M M Naravane’s unpublished memoir in Kolkata on Monday. PTI

Aiyar continues to attack Cong leaders

Calls Venugopal a ‘goon’ and Tharoor an ‘opportunist’

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Congress veteran Mani Shankar Aiyar continued his praise for Kerala’s CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, and stepped up personal attack against Congress leaders who criticised him for his comment that Vijayan would return to power for a third term.

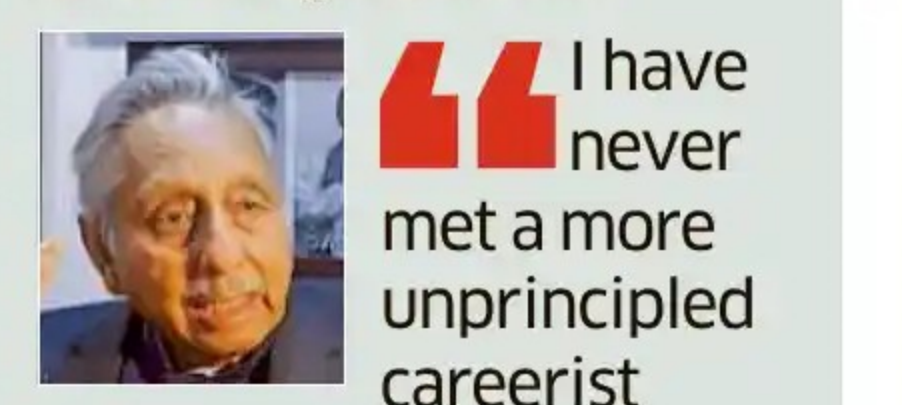
He came down heavily on AICC general secretary K C Venugopal and other senior leaders. He also claimed that the media exaggerated his Sunday comments.

Reacting to Congress leaders’ response that he was not connected with the party these days, Aiyar said he had yet to get a letter of expulsion from Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

His statements continued to embarrass the Congress in the run-up to the Kerala Assembly polls, which are months away.

“Being a Congress man, I would like to see the Congress win the election. But as a Gandhian, I can only tell the truth. I made my remarks about the Communist government in Kerala after learning the achievements made by the state as envisioned by late prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. The state even eradicated poverty through the Panchayati Raj system,” said Aiyar, who addressed the media along with state minister M B Rajesh and senior CPM leader Thomas Isaac on Monday.

MANI SHANKAR AIYAR
Senior Congress leader



“I have never met a more unprincipled careerist than Shashi Tharoor who, because Congress did not make him the foreign minister, is now trying to become Modi’s foreign minister. The Congress party was built on principles, not on opportunism.”

Speaking to a section of the media, Aiyar came down heavily on Venugopal, Ramesh Chennithala and MP Shashi Tharoor. He called Venugopal a “goon” and Tharoor an “opportunist”.

Aiyar also took aim at Pawan Khara, referring to Congress national spokesperson as a “tattu” (pony). Aiyar was reacting when asked about a social media post by Khara distancing the party from his remarks.

However, Aiyar praised Kerala Opposition leader V D Satheesan as a secular socialist leader in the Congress. He also said that Congress leaders were divided, while CPM leaders were quite disciplined.

Meanwhile, Satheesan, Venugopal, and Chennithala strongly criticised Aiyar, saying that he was not at all associated with the Congress these days.

Aiyar is in Thiruvananthapuram to participate in the international seminar “Vision 31: Development and democracy”, organised by the Kerala State Planning Board.

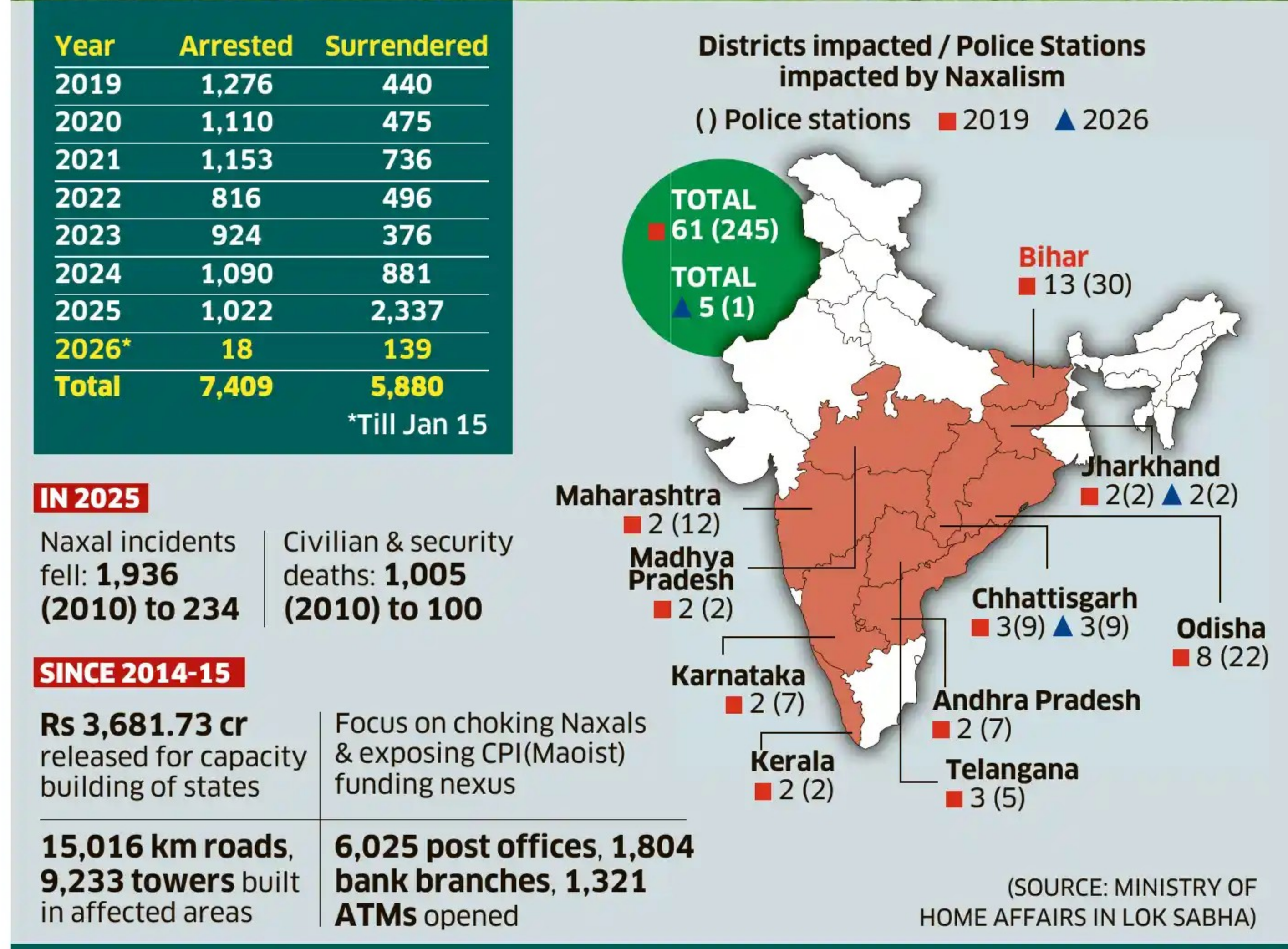
Committee on Centre-state ties submits 1st part of report to Stalin

CHENNAI, DHNS: The three-member panel appointed by the Tamil Nadu government submitted on Monday to Chief Minister M K Stalin the first part of its report discussing issues ranging from the Governor’s role to delimitation to the Goods and Services Tax to the Union government’s language policy.

The committee, headed by retired Supreme Court judge Kurian Joseph and consisting of retired bureaucrat K Ashok Vardhan Shetty and academic Prof M Naganathan, was appointed by Stalin in April last year to review the Centre-state relationship.

In a statement, the state government said the submission of the report’s first part marked an important milestone in Tamil Nadu’s continuing engagement with the evolution of India’s federal structure.

The report consists of 10 chapters, including the Case for Decentralisation and State Autonomy, Amendment of the Constitution, Territorial Integrity of States, Language, the Governor, Delimitation, Elections, Education, Health, and GST.



Cong’s ‘America-nirbhar’ jibe at BJP over US deal

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress on Monday accused the Modi government of making the country “America-nirbhar” (US dependent) instead of “Atmanirbhar” (self-reliant) through the Indo-US trade deal, which it said was an attack on the livelihoods of farmers and compromised energy security.

General Secretary Randeep Surjewala asked whether the trade deal was due to “coercion” and why the government was accepting it when its contours pave the way for the introduction of GM products, detrimental to cotton farmers and others, impact India’s energy security, and create imbalance in trade.

He told a press conference that the deal was a direct attack

RANDEEP SURJEWALA
Congress general secretary



“Trade agreements are the path to economic progress. The very foundation of trade agreements is mutual public interest on equal terms. Trade agreements should not be a path to slavery by sacrificing a country’s sovereignty. National and public interests cannot be sacrificed under the guise of trade deals.”

on the lives and livelihood of farmers by permitting imports of American agricultural and food products, including dried distillers grains (DDG), soybean oil, and sorghum.

“Instead of standing firm

in defence of Indian interests, a supposedly ‘strong’ government has surrendered India’s self-reliance and independence. People are now asking, is this a ‘strong government’ or a ‘meek—weak—helpless’ government? Is it ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ or ‘America-nirbhar Bharat?’” he said.

By agreeing to remove non-tariff barriers, he claimed that this would mean that India has agreed to do away with subsidies for farmers. He said the US gave USD 16 billion in subsidies in 2025, and in contrast, India gives its farmers just Rs 6,000 a year while taking back much more through expensive diesel, fertilisers, electricity and pesticides.

“Even the remaining benefits given to farmers are now being snatched away through this agreement. This decision

is extremely dangerous for the entire farming community,” he said.

He said DDG is processed maize, and the US, which produces 42.5 crore tonnes of maize annually, needs a market to sell the surplus, while India produces 430 lakh tonnes. He said its import will impact maize production in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, and Gujarat.

On sorghum, he said India produces 52 lakh tonnes, mainly in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat, MP, and UP, while the US produces 87 lakh tonnes, which is the highest in world. “If duty-free American sorghum is permitted, what will happen to Indian farmers?” he said, adding the same is case with soybean oil.

TMC slams EC as it bars housing aid letters in Bengal SIR

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The TMC stepped up its tirade against the Election Commission on Monday, after the poll panel conveyed that the letters confirming the sanction of the funds under the housing schemes of the Centre and the West Bengal government would not qualify during the rolls revision process as a valid document to prove the citizenship and franchise of the beneficiaries.

The TMC alleged that the EC’s refusal to accept the letters issued to the beneficiaries of the housing schemes was yet another conspiracy hatched by the commission at the behest of the BJP to disenfranchise the legitimate voters.

“After the SIR process concluded on February 14, the EC quietly released a notice declaring that documents issued under Banglar Bari (a housing scheme of the state government) are no longer valid for verification — not during the process, not when citizens

could respond, but after it ended, when no corrective step is practically possible,” Chandrima Bhattacharya, a senior TMC leader and the finance minister of West Bengal, said. “You cannot change the rules after the game is over and call it procedure.”

The BJP, however, extended support to the EC. “The commission had clearly specified government land allotment documents as eligible. Housing assistance schemes provide financial aid for construction; they are not proof of land allotment or ownership,” senior BJP leader Amit Malviya, who oversees the saffron party’s affairs in the state, posted on X.

“The EC agrees to the land allotment certificate as one of the valid documents. Can government housing funds be sanctioned to those who are not registered landowners? If financial assistance letters have been awarded, it automatically means that the beneficiary is a landowner,” Chandrima said in Kolkata.

LAST-DITCH EFFORT

'Sidelined' Sasikala looks to take on AIADMK, BJP with Feb 24 rally

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Having been isolated by those she ruled over from the sidelines for 30 years, former AIADMK interim general secretary V K Sasikala is making a last-ditch effort to regain political relevance in Tamil Nadu with a rally in the Ramana-thapuram district on February 24, J Jayalithaa’s 77th birth anniversary.

As a precursor to the rally, in which she is expected to announce her stand vis-à-vis the April-May Assembly elections, Sasikala has been holding consultations with supporters from several parts of the state for the past week.

The venue is also significant — a village near Pasumpom, the birthplace of U Muthuramalinga Thevar, an icon of the Mukulathors, the community to which she belongs — as Sasikala flexes her political muscle.

Sources aware of the discussions told *DH* that Sasikala believes she cannot stay a mute spectator and plans to send a clear message to the AIADMK-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the state.

The expectation seems to be a couple of Assembly seats in the NDA for her supporters; failing that, she might field candidates in select constituencies.

Though she cannot contest polls till 2027 due to her conviction in a disproportionate assets (DA) case, Sasikala believes her camp can make a difference by fielding candidates at least in constituencies where Mukulathors hold sway.

“Sasikala stepped aside during the 2021 elections in the interests of the AIADMK... She doesn’t want to stay silent anymore and is discussing her move with her supporters,” a close aide of Sasikala told *DH*.

Sasikala’s nephew T T V Dhinakaran, who heads the AMMK, has rejoined the NDA and declared his former bete noire Edappadi K Palaniswami the coalition’s chief-ministerial nominee, while another expelled AIADMK leader, O Panneerselvam, is still holding his cards close to his chest.

Sasikala’s rally is being closely watched, as the AIADMK and the BJP are making every effort to unite the Mukulathor votes, which were split after 2016. If she fields her own candidates, that might spell trouble for the NDA.



BJP wins Karimnagar mayor post, Cong bags Nizamabad

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The BJP secured the mayor’s post in the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation (KMC), where it emerged as the single largest party with the support of independents. However, in the Nizamabad Municipal Corporation (NMC), despite the BJP emerging as the single largest party with a majority of corporators, the Congress clinched the mayor’s position with backing from AIMIM corporators.

The Congress swept the remaining five municipal corporations, while the BJP also secured chairman posts in the Narayanpet and Bhainsa municipalities.

Ahead of voting, high

drama unfolded across Telangana, with newly elected corporators and councillors herded into party camps. In Karimnagar, BJP’s Kolagani Srinivas was elected mayor, with Sunil Rao as deputy mayor, while the BRS boycotted the vote.

In Nizamabad, Congress’ Umarani secured the mayor’s post with 34 votes against BJP’s 31. Despite the BJP winning 28 divisions — the largest tally — the Congress, with 17 divisions, gained support from AIMIM’s 14 corporators in exchange for the deputy mayor post, along with one BRS member.

Of the five ex officio members, the BJP holds three and the Congress two, giving the Congress a total of 34 votes, just above the majority threshold of 33.

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy described the Nizamabad result as a “firm rejection” of the BJP’s attempts at religious polarisation in North Telangana.



MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development
Department Division Koppal. Phone & Fax No : 08539-220054,
E-mail: eemidnkt@rediffmail.com

No. : E.E./M.I.&G.W.D.D./Koppal/PB/TP/2025-26/5171

Date : 13-02-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(E-Procurement Portal Through only)

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal District invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-1, KW-2 & KW-3 on KPP Portal for 30 No. of Tender Works pertaining to Koppal District & Raichur District

The Approximate Amount for the Mentioned Works Ranges between Rs. 10.00 Lakhs to 100.00 Lakhs. Two Cover Tender Procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP act shall be followed. The Tender Documents can be Downloaded from the above Website address on or after 17-02-2026. Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tender is 27-02-2026 Time 17.30 hours, Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 25-02-2026, 11.00 Hours at Division Office Koppal, Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid 02-03-2026 Time 11.00 hours, Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid 04-03-2026 Time 11.00 hours (If Technical Bid Sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from Website : <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development
Department Division, Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/682/Manipal/2025-26



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Office of the Executive Engineer, PRE Division

Jawahar Road Koppal 583231 ,Karnataka . Email: ceppedkpl@gmail.com,

No:EE:PRED:DN:KPL/DB/TENDER/2025-26 /2924

Date: 13/02/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of The Governor of Kamataka, Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Koppal, invites item rates tender through kppp one / two cover systems, from eligible PWD and PRE Department registered contractors through Standard Bid Document KW-1,2,3 & 4, under head of account 2025-26 CMIDP, Other heads in different talukas of Koppal district . This scheme is fully funded by the Government of Karnataka . For more information contact above the office. Eligible contractors participate online by entering into kppp portal. <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> portal.

General instructions:- 1.Contracts participate in all tenders online only. 2).Pre-qualification documents should be uploaded by scanning all certificates & other concerned documents online only. 3)3.Pre-requisite EMD have to be pay online as per mentioned in eproc-portal. For more information, contractors need to consult to below signed official, officer, contractors may get the information by going through. <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> portal.This notified works can be downloaded in <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> portal.

REPAIRS & RENOVATIONS TO BUDDHA-BASAVA-AMBEDKAR SAMUDAYA BHAVAN AT KUKNOOR TALUK OF KOPPAL DISTRICT .INDENT NO:22936 APT-RS 31685629.96 EMD-RS 476000.00 PERIOD - 11 MONTHS

Tender Processing Fees As per E-Procurement Download of Schedule-B in Eproc Portal From 13.02.2026 time after 10.00 AM upto 27.02.2026 time 16.00 Hours. Tender Receipt last dates From 13.02.2026 time 11.00 AM upto 27.02.2026 Time 16.30 hrs Technical Bid open date and time (Both Technical & Financial bids are opened as same date for KW 1 & KW 2 ,KW-3 Works 02.03.2026 in office hours. Financial Bid open date and time For KW 4 After getting Technical approval from competent authority, bid will be opened

Note: The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject any of the tenders at any stage without assigning the reasons .

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PRE Division Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/679/KSMCA-2025-26



EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION

(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)

Regional Office, Rajarajeshwari Nagar
Rajarajeshwari Regency, No.570, 26th Cross,
Ideal Home Co-op Society Layout, Bangalore-560098
Mysore Road, Bengaluru – 560 039.

Website: www.epfindia.gov.in

Telephone: 080-28603108/125 Email: ro.rmagar@epfindia.gov.in

NOTICE TO THE CONCERNED

M/s Neo Sharp Engineering is an establishment covered under Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 bearing EPF Code BG/MRD/43929 having its registered address at No. 20/5, 1st Cross, Nayandahalli, Muthachari Industrial Estate, Mysore Road, Bengaluru – 560 039.

Inquiry under Section 7A of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 for assessment of Provident Fund contributions payable by the employer is under process for the default period from 07/2009 to 08/2014.

Those who worked during the above period in the above said establishment may appear for hearing on 24.02.2026 at 3.00 PM at the Office of "The Regional PF Commissioner, Regional Office, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, No. 570, 26th Cross, Ideal Home Co op Society, Bengaluru – 560 098.

Those who are aware of the facts of the case may also appear for the hearing with documentary evidence. The details of employment along with any documentary evidence may also sent to this Office through email id: ro.rmagar@epfindia.gov.in

Sd/- K. VENKATA SUBBAIAH

Regional PF Commissioner-II, RO, RR Nagar



KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara,
Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: <https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in>

No: KERC/DD(Tariff)/OP37&39/2025-26/1503

Date: 16.02.2026

NOTICE ON CHANGE IN PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

The Public Hearing scheduled on Thursday, 19th February, 2026 in respect of APR petitions of BESCOM and KPTCL is hereby postponed. The revised schedule is as follows:

BESCOM : Friday, 20th February, 2026, at 11:00 AM

KPTCL : Friday, 20th February, 2026, at 03:00 PM

Venue : Court Hall

Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission,
No. 16 C-1, 1st Floor, Millers Tank Bed Area,
Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052.

Sd/- Secretary

For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

DIPR/CP/NC/5669/2025-26



KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: CEE/Tr(Op)Z/TKR/SEE/AEE-2/2025-26/12420-21

Date: 13.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites tender for the following work.

Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TR(O)Z/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-2/ 2025-26/Bid Enq-0099. Replacement of deteriorated / faulty Control Cables by new Control Cable for various bays at 220/66kV Receiving Station Hosadurga (Madhure) Hosadurga Taluk, Chitradurga District, on Total Turnkey Percentage Tender basis including Supply, Laying, Testing & Commissioning, Dismantling, Transportation, Loading & Un-loading.

The detailed information regarding subject enquiry in KPP portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after 21.02.2026 and other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, "Prasarana Bhavana", 1st Floor, Tumakuru 66/11kV S/s Premises, Tumakuru-572 103.



Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited

(A Government Undertaking)

CIN :U70100KA2015SGC081817

#54, 5th Floor, Indhana Bhavana, Racecourse Road, Opposite Renaissance Hotel, Bangalore-560001. Ph (080) 22352525.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕೆಟಿ.ಐ.ಎಲ್ /ಯೋ-01/ಕ.ವಿ/ಬೀ.ಇ/02/2025-26

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited, Bangalore Invited the Respective Tenders for Development of Karnataka Tourism at (Karnataka public procurement portal) <https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. The details of the Tender & Calendar of Events are available at <https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Portal.

Sl. No	Work Name	Indent No
1.	Providing basic Infrastructure facilities and restoration to Shri Shivasharane Hemareddy Mallamma Temple at ward no 28, Mailur, Bidar.	KTIL/2025-26/ BD/WORK_INDENT37, Dt: 13.02.2026
2.	Construction of RO PLANT at Shivappayya math at Lakkundi village, Gadag Taluk, Gadag District.	KTIL/2025-26/ BD/WORK_INDENT38, Dt: 13.02.2026
3.	Construction of RO PLANT at M.K.B.S School at Lakkundi village, Gadag Taluk, Gadag District	KTIL/2025-26/ BD/WORK_INDENT39, Dt: 13.02.2026

Tender Details are available for download in E-procurement Portal (<https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in>) from Dt:13.02.2026. Postponement of Calendar of events (if any), subsequent notification, changes, amendments and selection/ rejection of proposal shall be intimated only through Karnataka public procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers. KTIL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer and Tender Inviting Authority,
Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited

DIPR/CP/5661/NR/2025-26



Government of Karnataka

Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division Ballari

Email: ee_pwdbellary@yahoo.com Telephone No: 08392 -266123

No: EE/PWD/BD/TS-1/2025-26/5949

Dated : 16-02-2026.

Short term Tender Notification (Two Cover Sysytem)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the works detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through KPP- portal. Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded through the web-site <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/> For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours.

Sl No	Details of Works	Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)
1)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33102	100.00
2)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33101	150.00
3)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33103	150.00
4)	PWD/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT33206	400.00
5)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33494	125.00
6)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33495	200.00
7)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33655	400.00
8)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33656	300.00
9)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33375	100.00

Note: Any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions, tenderers can view in KPP Procurement Portal.

1)Last dates for queries (through KPP –portal): 20-02-2026 upto 12.00 Hours

2)Last date for submission of tenders through KPP -portal: 24-02-2026 upto 16.00 Hours

3)Date and time of opening of Technical Bids: 25-02-2026 at 16.30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Ballari.

DIPR/Ballari/1008/KSMCA/2025-26



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

NO: E-RD 09 GRC 2026

Date:03.02.2026

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the report of the Superintendent of Police, CT&R Division and Nodal Officer CID Bengaluru and after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that Siri Vaibhava Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita, is involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that Siri Vaibhava Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of Siri Vaibhava Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita, Bengaluru and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of the Siri Vaibhava Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita.

And whereas, now the Government after considering the reports of the Special Officer and Competent Authority IMA and other KPID Cases and Competent Authority for Siri Vaibhava Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) hereby makes the following order, namely:

“ORDER”

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and immovable properties believed to belong to Siri Vaibhava Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita.

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches the immovable and movable properties as specified in the Annexure 1 and 2 to this order believed to have been acquired by the Siri Vaibhava Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita, either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the Siri Vaibhava Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita, and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishment, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishment is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the aforesaid immovable and movable properties from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forth with vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the
Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department (Services-1,
SSLR & Special Cell)

Annexure-1

Details of the immovable properties belonging to President/CEO of Siri Vaibhava Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita, Bengaluru

Sl. No.	Schedule Property details	Seller	Purchaser	Registration No. and date	Market Value	Remarks
1	All that piece and parcel of the Immovable property bearing BBMP Khatha No. 214/1/39/1/215/214, situated at Yelachenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 100 feet and North to South 59 feet, in all 5900 sq.ft., with built up area of 4400 sq.ft., in the Ground floor, built with RCC roof and vitrified tiles flooring and the property is bounded on: East: Property belonging to Nayar West: Property belonging to Mr. Narasimaiah and Mr. Bhawaralal North: Property belonging to purchaser and 15ft passage leading to the road to Smt. Leelamma South: Property belonging to B J R Rajkumar	Dr. B.J.R Shiva Shankaran & Smt. Girija S Shankar	Sri Rajesh V.R & Smt Nagavalli B.S	BSK-1-16512-2018-19, 20-03-2019	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation.	Property is in the name of Nagavalli B.S., President and Rajesh V R, CEO of the said Financial establishment.
2	All that piece and parcel of the Immovable property bearing BBMP Khatha No. 213/39/2/214/213, situated at Yelachenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 100 feet and North to South 95 feet, in all 9500 sq.ft., with built up area of 4400 sq.ft., comprising of 2200 sq.ft., in the Ground floor and 2200 sq.ft., in the first floor built with RCC roof and vitrified tiles flooring and the property is bounded on:	BJR Shiva Shankaran	Rajesh V R & Nagavalli	BSK-1-05840-2018-19, 08-08-2018	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation	Property is in the name of Nagavalli B.S., President and Rajesh V R, CEO of the said Financial establishment.

Annexure-2

Details of Vehicle in the name of Siri Vaibhava Gold Palace and V.R Rajesh, CEO of Siri Vaibhava Pattina Sahakara Niyamitha

Sl. No	Registration number	Vehicle model	Type of Vehicle	Date of registration	Name of the owner	Chassis Number	Engine Number	Remarks
1	KA-05-NB-5468	KIA CARNIVAL D2.28AT PRESTIGE 7	7 seater	01-01-2021	Siri Vaibhava Gold Palace	MZBMC81AMLN000522	D4HBKH671944	Vehicle is in the name of Financial Establishment.
2	KA-05-MM-8272	TOYOTA INNOVA 2.5 V (iDENT) BS4	8 seater	23-03-2013	V R Rajesh	MBJ11JV40073992760313	2KDU263295	Vehicle is in the name of CEO of the Financial Establishment.

Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
(Services-1,SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/JA/5679/2025-26

TN to write to Centre on allotting airspace for Hosur airport

Move comes after Centre refused approval for the airport, citing HAL airspace

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Determined to go ahead with its proposal to build an airport in Hosur, the Tamil Nadu government will soon write to the Union Government seeking a review of its inability to allot airspace for the proposed project, citing defence requirements.

The move comes after the Union Civil Aviation Ministry told the Rajya Sabha last week that the proposal submitted by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation seeking site clearance for the project “has not been recommended” to prioritise defence projects of national importance being carried out by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The state government has identified about 3,000 acres in

CLEARANCE AWAITED

■ DMK-led government seeks review of decision by Centre

■ State government has identified about 3,000 acres in Hosur and Shoola-giri taluks for the project

■ Hosur airport not recommended to prioritise defence projects of national importance, Union Civil Aviation Minister told Parliament last week

12 revenue villages in Hosur and Shoalagiri taluks for the project, with the Krishnagiri district administration preparing a detailed Land Development Plan, which is currently being reviewed by the Commissioner

of Land Administration.

“We are planning to write to the Union government explaining the need for an airport in Hosur. We will also add the technical reasoning on why an airport in Hosur will not just help the city but also South Bengaluru. We will explain in detail the needs and how airspace used by HAL can be shared,” a source aware of the developments told *DH*.

The source added that the response by the ministry was “routine,” as it is normal for the Union Government to cite defence requirements as a reason for not allotting airspace.

“We believe there is a strong reason for allotting airspace for this project, and we will make the proposal watertight so that it doesn’t get rejected this time,” the source added.

The Tamil Nadu government chose the Hosur-Berigai-Bagalur-Shoalagiri quadrilateral for housing the airport after the Airports Authority of India (AAI) studied five locations in Krishnagiri district and short-listed two.

Rajasthan: Seven burnt alive in fire at illegal cracker unit

JAIPUR, PTI: Seven people were burnt alive and two were critically injured in an illegal firecracker-manufacturing factory in the Bhiwadi town of Rajasthan’s Khairthal-Tijara district on Monday, officials said.

The incident occurred in the Khushkhhera-Karoli industrial area in Bhiwadi. “Seven persons have died in the incident. It was a garment factory, but firecrackers were being manufactured inside it illegally,” Sumitra Pareek, Additional District Magistrate, said. She said that two people trapped in the factory were rescued. They were admitted to Delhi’s Safdarjung Hospital in a critical condition.

Earlier, officials said the fire

broke out in a chemical factory. “The premises was leased out in the name of a garment factory, but as per the preliminary report, firecrackers were being manufactured illegally,” she said.

She said that the police came to know about the incident during a routine patrol, following which a rescue operation was launched immediately.

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma instructed district administrations to carry out relief and rescue work immediately.

Sharma later reached the spot in the afternoon and visited the factory. He directed officials to carry out a detailed probe.

Court frames charges against Lalu, Rabri in land-for-job case

NEW DELHI, PTI

A Delhi court on Monday formally framed charges against former railway minister Lalu Prasad Yadav and his wife Rabri Devi in the alleged land-for-jobs scam.

Special Judge Vishal Gogne said, “The charge has been framed against accused 1 (Lalu Prasad) and accused 2 (Rabri Devi), to which they have pleaded not guilty and claimed trial.”

The matter has been listed on February 27 for further proceedings.

On January 29, the judge granted liberty to Lalu Prasad, wife Rabri Devi, sons



RJD chief Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi. PTI FILE

Tejashwi Yadav and Tej Pratap Yadav, and some others to appear in person between February 1 and 28 for formal framing of charges.

On January 9, the court had ordered framing charges against Lalu, his family members and others.

It has framed charges in

the case against 41 accused persons and discharged 52 others. Out of the 103 accused named in the CBI’s chargesheet, five have died.

In his 346-page order, Judge Gogne had said, “The court finds, on the touchstone of grave suspicion, that there existed an overarching criminal conspiracy, mentored by Lalu Prasad Yadav, towards using public employment as a bargaining chip for receiving immovable properties through his wife Rabri Devi, daughters Misha Bharti and Hema Yadav, as well as sons Tejashwi Prasad Yadav and Tej Pratap Yadav from willing job seekers.”

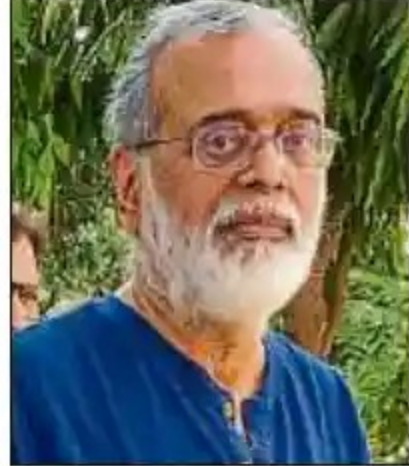
ED slaps Rs 184-cr FEMA penalty against NewsClick, founder Purkayastha

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said it has imposed a Rs 184-crore FEMA penalty against news portal NewsClick and its founder and editor-in-chief, Prabir Purkayastha, who came under the scanner of the probe agencies on allegations of peddling “pro-China propaganda”

through its stories.

PPK NEWSCLICK Studio Private Limited, the company that owns NewsClick, has been penalised for an amount of Rs 120 crore while Purkayastha has been imposed with the same order for Rs 64 crore under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), the federal agency said in a statement.



Prabir Purkayastha

completing the adjudication process (end of investigation) against the two entities related

The order has been issued by the Adjudicating Authority of FEMA (a special director rank officer of the ED) after completing the adjudication process (end of investigation) against the two entities related

to “violations” of foreign direct investment and foreign inward remittances.

“The Adjudicating Authority observed that the contraventions were substantial, deliberate, and systemic in nature, involving large-scale foreign exchange transactions and breach of statutory declarations furnished to regulatory authorities,” it said.

There was no immediate response from NewsClick on the development. The agency said the penalty was imposed after the ED carried out a detailed examination of records, evidence and submissions made by the noticees (PPK NEWSCLICK Studio and Purkayastha). The ED has a separate money laundering case registered against the portal.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie



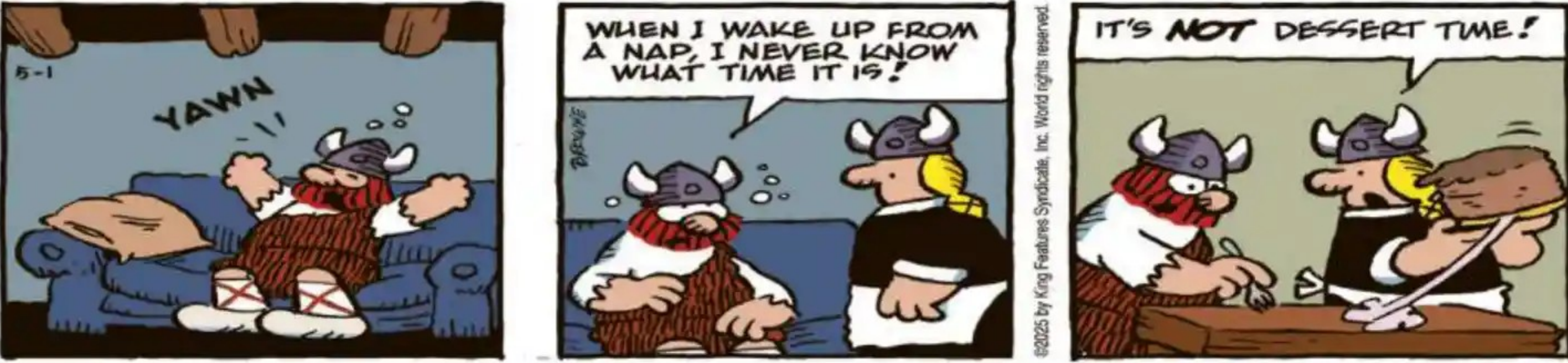
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YNPNE

UGSES

SNELET

TXFAIE

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BERRY CREST ISLAND FIRMLY
Answer: The bread loaves being baked in the ovens at 4 a.m. were — EARLY RISERS

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

On my! Look at all those circled letters!

Hoo boy! I'm afraid going to be a tough one.

AFTER SEEING HOW DIFFICULT THE JUMBLE WOULD BE TO SOLVE, THEY HAD AN ---

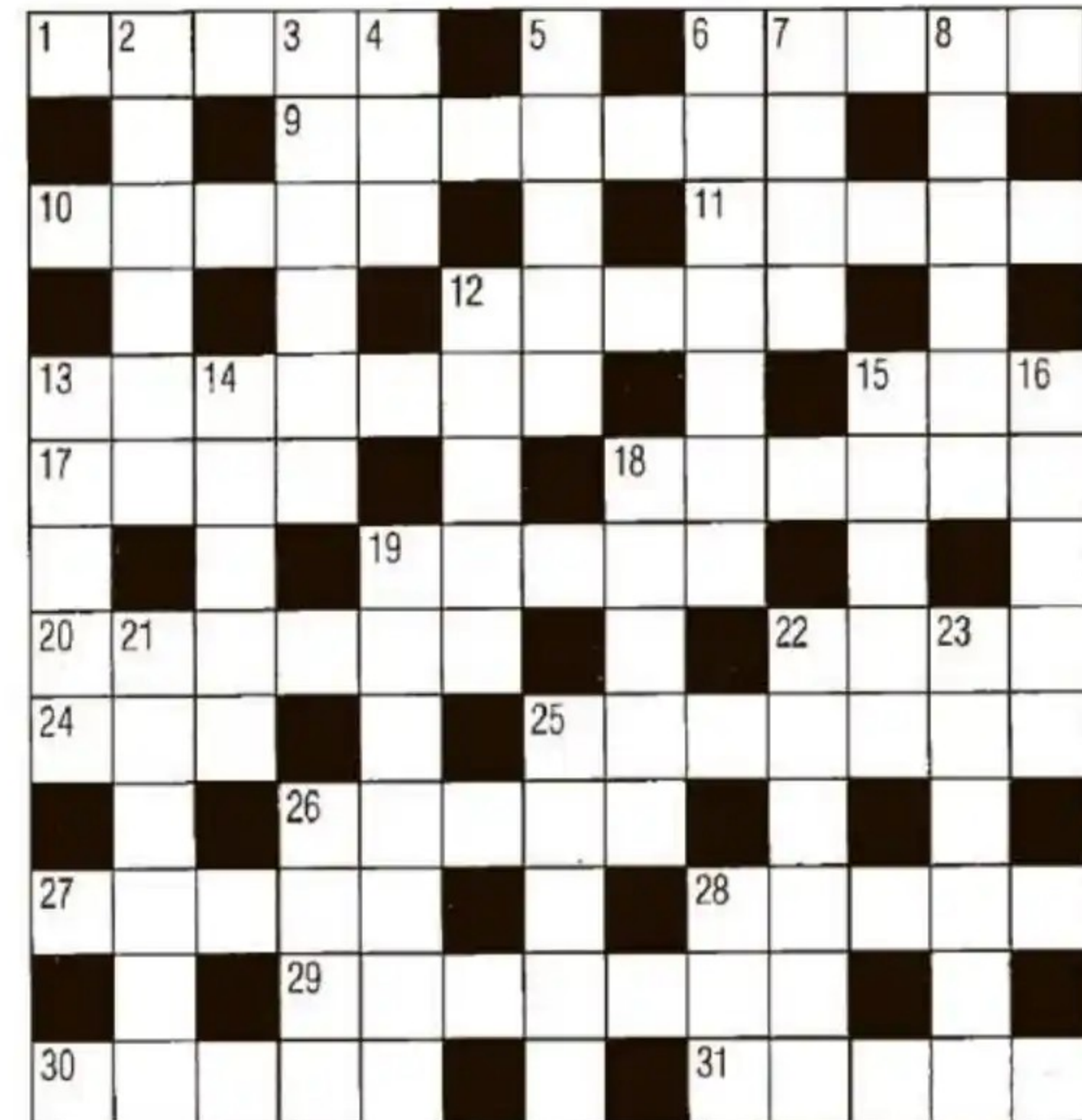
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BERRY CREST ISLAND FIRMLY
Answer: The bread loaves being baked in the ovens at 4 a.m. were — EARLY RISERS

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12355



- ACROSS**
- Nun's costume (5)
 - Flavour (5)
 - Posy (7)
 - Cooker (5)
 - Brings up (5)
 - Indications (5)
 - Health-check (7)
 - Father (3)
 - Prayer ending (4)
 - Convince, guarantee (6)
 - Not smooth (5)
 - Small cupboard (6)
 - Nuisance (4)
 - Farmyard bird (3)
 - Scolds harshly (7)
 - Fairy type (5)
 - Eurasian mammal (5)
 - Robust (5)
 - Of the stomach (7)
 - Thin porridge (5)
 - Entice (5)
- DOWN**
- National song (6)
 - With no success (2,4)
 - Foot part (3)
 - Danger (5)
 - Discolour (7)
 - Yes votes (4)
 - Deposit on teeth (6)
 - Wooden shoe (5)
 - Game (5)
 - Concur (5)
 - Musical performance (7)
 - Missive (6)
 - Monarch's residence (6)
 - Parody, imitation (4-2)
 - Bearing of offspring (5)
 - Leaf of a book (4)
 - Strike (3)

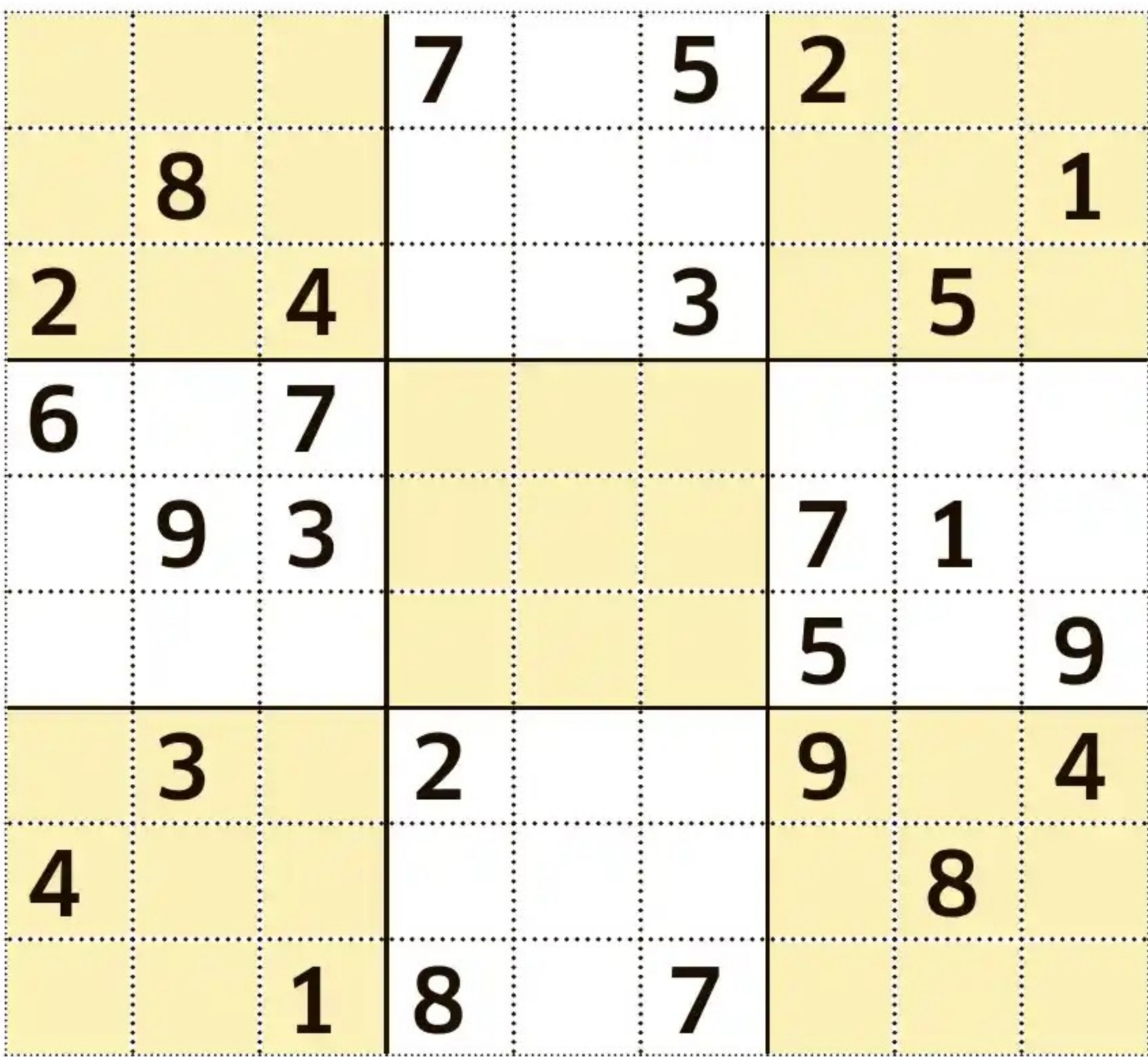
CRYPTIC

- ACROSS**
- A black suit (5)
 - As used in making pies around Christmas, initially? (5)
 - Evidently cereal repast (7)
 - To a medical person, it means scope (5)
 - We hear it has charms (5)
 - Prevents arrests? (5)
 - Like that Baconian theory, a bit unreliable (7)
 - Harlesden's youth centre? (3)
 - Employer of a shift ruse (4)
 - Some rubbish about a safety device (6)
 - Certainly not the distaff (5)
 - Foreigners, as around the Nile, possibly (6)
 - I had to back the Gunners to attack (4)
 - There's a 'water' kind (in the Euphrates?) (3)
 - A number happening to be in the fringes of society (7)
 - I avow it's a southern river! (5)
 - Soundly bred on plain food (5)
 - By sheltering the sick, make a name (5)
 - Legendary builder who redeveloped our slum (7)
 - Starting with fifty, he returned with nine (5)
 - Something electrifyingly hairy? (5)
- DOWN**
- It's after 51 thousand that there are restrictions (6)
 - It's for water but contains oil (6)
 - Rested, then returned to an incomplete task (3)
 - May it form friendship (5)
 - More than plentiful evidence of embroidery skill (7)
 - Extra soft, with a bit of lustre (4)
 - Many wage adjustments mean trouble (6)
 - Avoids reading things full of rubbish? (5)
 - To tease us up is sweet! (5)
 - A terrible fire at the end of the street involves repair (5)
 - Lord socially acceptable in disorganised clan (5)
 - At journey's end, see many looking off-colour (5)
 - Speedy winner in a famous car (5)
 - Where wintry precipitation's almost done? (7)
 - Annie's boy? (6)
 - You can do what you like with it (6)
 - Of the emphatic type? (6)
 - Old place name, rum as can be (5)
 - In which a woman could give herself airs? (4)
 - Busoni piece usually without conductor (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12354

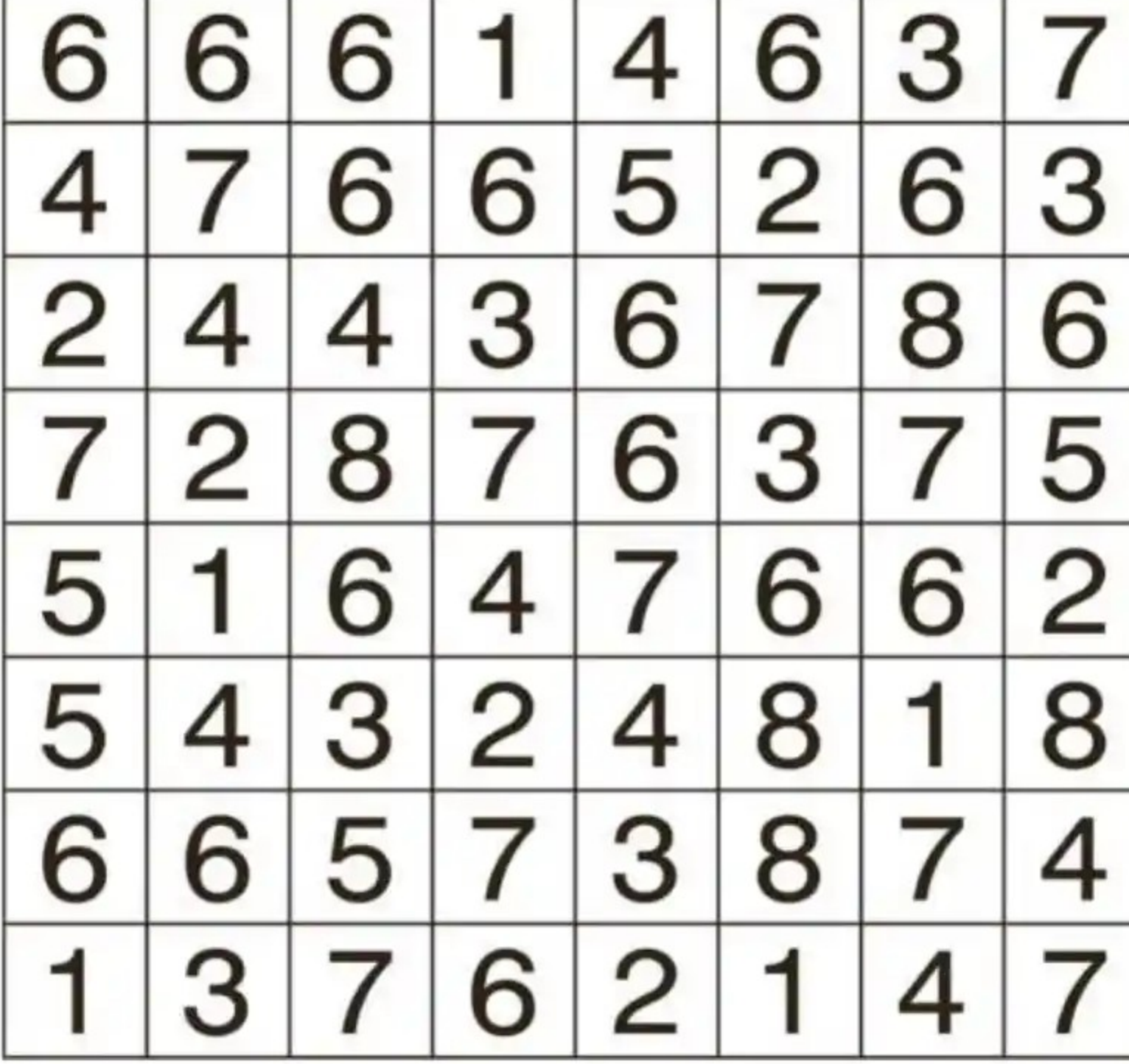
- CRYPTIC**
- ACROSS:** 3, Minus 8, L-U-nik 10, Skirl 11, Run 12, Revue (review) 13, Kingdom 15, Real-M 18, Lam 19, Settle 21, Senator 22, Pitt 23, Bo-sh 24, A-CC-uses 26, U-sable 29, Be-e 31, Times 32, Glasses 34, G-able 35, Win 36, Sto-ic 37, Saxton 38, Nests.
- DOWN:** 1, Turin 2, Ringle 4, It-em 5, Usur 6, Skeet 7, Drill 9, Nun (none) 12, Romance 14, Dan 16, A-Thos 17, Mith-s 19, Soluble 20, Spo-U-t 21, Steam 23, Bees-wax 24, AIsace 25, SE-a 27, Sifts 28, Begin 30, Tenon 32, G-L-ut

◆SU-DO-KU-6832◆



- SOLUTION TO 6831**
- To solve the puzzle:** To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

HITORI-3286

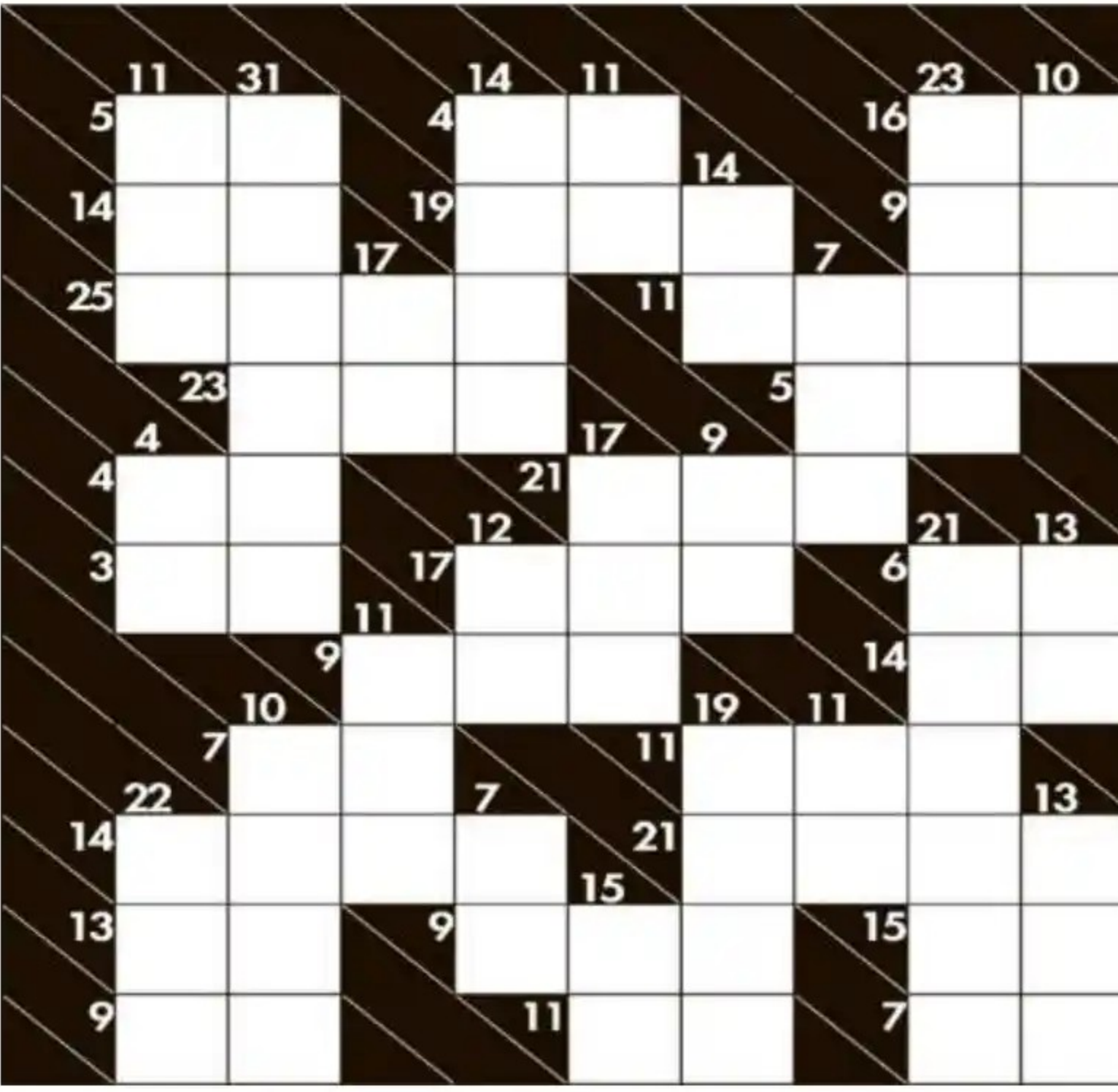


SOLUTION TO 3285



To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3286

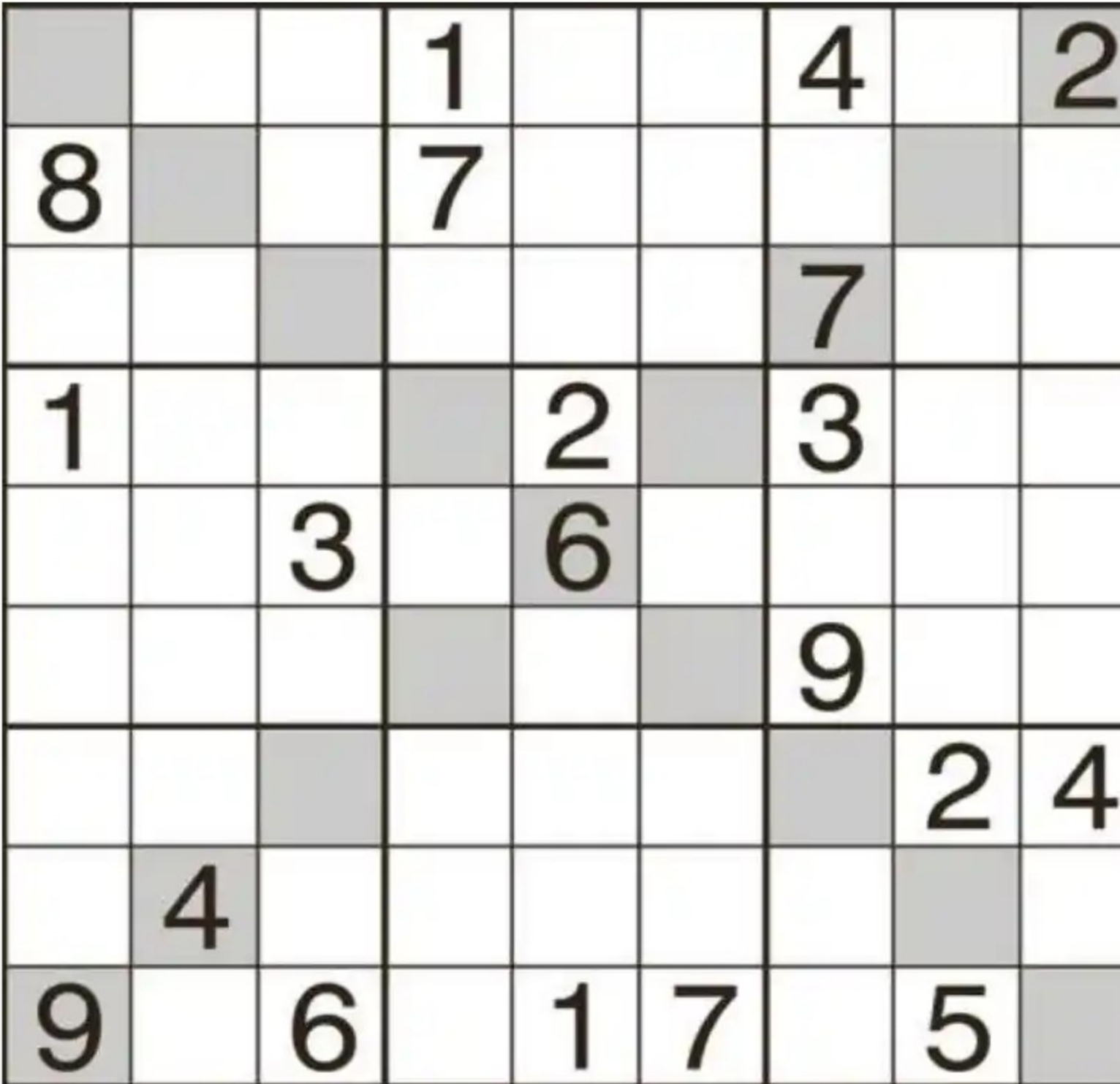


SOLUTION TO 3285

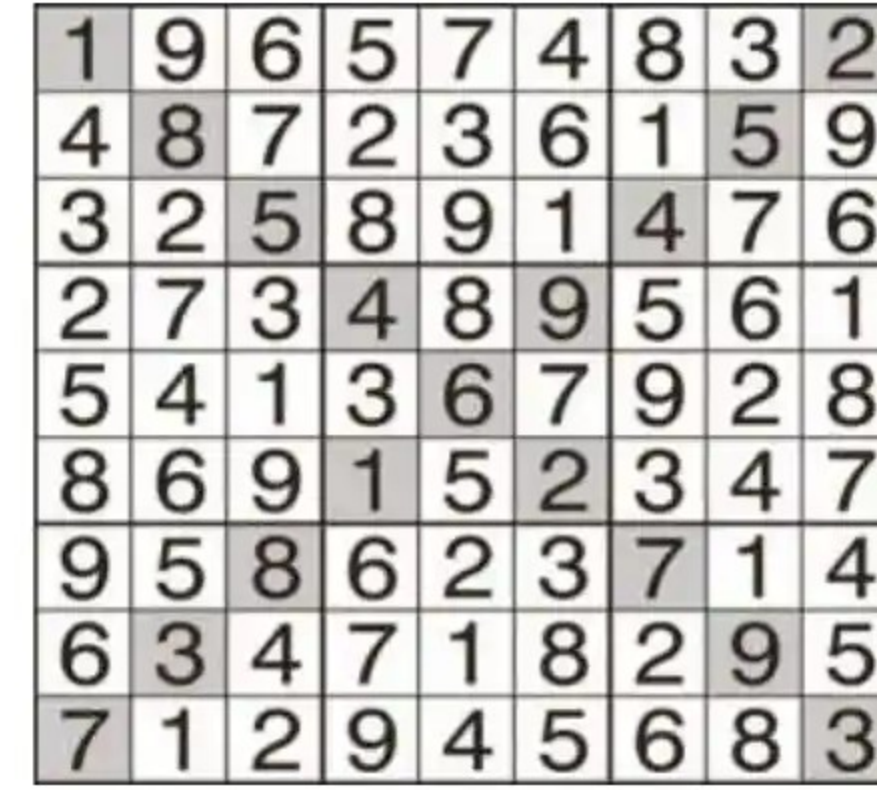


To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3830



SOLUTION TO 3829



To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

TACTICAL REACTORS

US conducts first air transport of nuclear microreactor

Pentagon and Energy Department showcase rapid nuclear deployment capability

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, REUTERS

The US Departments of Energy and Defense on Sunday, for the first time, transported a small nuclear reactor on a cargo plane from California to Utah to demonstrate the potential to rapidly deploy nuclear power for military and civilian use.

The agencies partnered with California-based Valar Atomics to fly one of the company's Ward micro-reactors on a C-17 aircraft — without nuclear fuel — to Hill Air Force Base in Utah. Energy Secretary Chris Wright and Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Michael Duffey were on the C-17 flight with the reactor and its components and hailed the event as a breakthrough for US nuclear energy and military logistics. "This gets us closer to deploying nuclear power when and where it is needed to give our nation's war-fighters the tools to win in battle," Duffey said. President Donald Trump's administration sees small nuclear reactors as one of several ways to expand US energy produc-

tion. Trump last May issued four executive orders aimed at boosting domestic nuclear deployment to meet growing demand for energy for national security and competi-tive AI advancements. The Energy Department in December issued two grants to help accelerate devel-opment of small modular reactors. Proponents of microreactors have also touted them as energy sources that can be sent to far-flung and remote places, offering an alternative to diesel generators, which require frequent deliveries of fuel. However, sceptics argue that the industry has not proven that small nuclear reactors can generate power at a reasonable price. "There is no business case for microreactors, which — even if they

work as designed — will produce electricity at a far higher cost than large nuclear reactors, not to mention renewables like wind or solar," said Edwin Lyman, director of nuclear power safety at the Union of Concerned Scientists. The Energy Department plans to have three microreactors reach "criticality" by July 4, Wright said. The microreactor in Sunday's event, a little larger than a minivan, can generate up to 5 megawatts of electricity, enough to power 5,000 homes, according to Valar CEO Isaiah Taylor. It will start operating in July at 100 kilowatts and peak at 250 kilowatts this year before ramping up to full capacity, he said. Valar hopes to start selling power on a test basis in 2027 and become

fully commercial in 2028. Although private industry funds its own development of nuclear technology, it also needs the federal government "to take enabling actions to allow fuel fabrication here and uranium enrichment here", he said. Fuel for Valar's reactor will be transported from the Nevada National Security Site to the San Rafael facility, Wright told reporters. However, even small generators result in a significant amount of radioactive waste, Lyman said. Other experts say designers are not com-pelled to consider waste at inception, beyond a plan for how it will be man-aged. Although disposal of nuclear waste remains an unresolved issue, the Energy Department is in talks with a few states, Wright said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE



Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban (right) and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio attend a press conference in Budapest on Monday. AFP

US pledges support for Orban ahead of Hungary's election

► President Donald Trump is committed to the success of Hun-garian Prime Minister Viktor Orban because his leadership is crucial to US interests, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Monday, offering a robust endorsement of the national leader as he faces a tough election in April, Reuters reports from Budapest. Speaking at a news conference with Orban in Budapest, Rubio said US ties with Hungary were

entering a "golden era" but appeared to suggest that this depended on Orban being re-elected. "President Trump is deeply committed to your success, because your success is our success," Rubio said, standing next to Orban. "We want this country to do well. It is in our national interest, especially as long as you are the prime minister and the leader of this country," Rubio said. "We are entering this golden era of relations."

B'desh new PM to take oath today

► Tarique Rahman will take oath as Bangladesh's new Prime Minister on Tuesday after leading his party to a forceful victory in the crucial general elections, PTI reports from Dhaka. Breaking with a long-standing tradition, the swearing-in ceremony of the 60-year-old BNP

Chairman would be held at the South Plaza of the Parliament instead of Bangabhaban. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will represent India at the swearing-in ceremony. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Secretary-Gen-eral of Lok Sabha Utpal Kumar Singh are also likely to accompany Birla.

25 Indian fishermen arrested

► The Sri Lanka Navy on Monday apprehended 25 Indian fishermen for allegedly poaching in the island nation's territorial waters, PTI reports from Colombo. The fishermen were apprehended and their

two trawlers were seized in Sri Lankan waters off Kankesanthurai, Jaffna, the Navy said in a statement. The fishermen will be handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Myliddy, Jaffna, for further legal proceedings.

US more realistic now on N-talks, says Iran

Islamic regime signals cautious optimism

TEHRAN, AFP

Iran said Monday that the US position on Tehran's nuclear programme "has moved towards a more realistic one" ahead of a second round of talks. "A cautious assessment is that, from the discussions that have taken place in Mus-cat to date, at least what we have been told is that the US position on the Iranian nuclear issue has moved towards a more realistic one," foreign ministry spokesman Esmacil Baqaei said, according to the official IRNA news agency. He added that Iran's "in-alienable rights under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) were recognised", re-ferring to the "peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including enrichment".

Tehran and Washington are due on Tuesday to hold a second round of negotiations — which began this month — after earlier talks collapsed during last year's Iran-Israel war. In June, Israel launched an unprecedented bombing campaign against Iran, trig-gering a 12-day war during which Israel and the United States struck Iranian nuclear facilities. Ahead of the latest talks, Baqaei said Iran would press for the lifting of long-standing US sanctions that have deep-ened the country's economic crisis. "Time is of the essence for us. Our people are under the pressure of oppressive sanctions, and reason and logic demand that we lift these sanctions as soon as possible,"

Tehran holds war drill

Iran's Islamic Revolu-tionary Guard Corps on Monday began a series of military exercises in the Strait of Hormuz, state media reported, on the eve of talks with the United States, AFP reports from Tehran. The war games, the duration of which was not spec-ified, aim to prepare the Guards for "potential security and military threats" in the strait, state TV said, after the United States deployed a large naval force to the area.

he said. Key sticking points include Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium, which had reached 60 percent purity be-fore the war and which Wash-ington has repeatedly called on Tehran to reduce to zero. On Sunday, Israel also called for Iran to have "no enrichment capability" and for all of its enriched material to be transferred abroad. Considerable uncertainty surrounds the fate of Iran's stockpile of more than 400 kilogrammes of 60-percent enriched uranium that was last seen by watchdog inspec-tors in June before the war. Iran has said its enriched material remains under the rubble of nuclear sites struck during the conflict.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi with International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Grossi in Geneva on Monday. REUTERS



A Palestinian woman waits at a bus stop next to Israeli flags, near Luban e-Sharkiya, between Nablus and Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, on Monday. REUTERS

Israel's approval of West Bank land registration draws outrage

Arab states and EU warn move could accelerate annexation

JERUSALEM, AFP

Israel's government has ap-proved a process to register land in the West Bank as "state property", drawing con-demnation from Arab nations and critics who said it would accelerate annexation of the Palestinian territory. Israel's foreign ministry said the measure, approved late on Sunday, would enable "transparent and thorough clarification of rights to resolve legal disputes" and was needed after unlawful land registration in areas controlled by the Pales-

tinian Authority. Arab nations Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar and Jordan criticised the move as illegal under international law. The measure is "aimed at imposing a new legal and ad-ministrative reality in the oc-cupied West Bank" that would undermine peace efforts in the region, Saudi Arabia's foreign affairs ministry said in a state-ment. Jordan's King Abdullah II said the actions "undermine efforts to restore calm and threaten to exacerbate the con-flict", according to a statement released by the royal court. The European Union called on Israel to reverse the move. "This constitutes a new es-calation after recent measures already aimed at extending Israeli control," EU foreign affairs spokesman Anouar El Anouni said. "We reiterate that annexation is illegal un-der international law." The

Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority called for interna-tional intervention to prevent the "de facto beginning of the annexation process and the un-dermining of the foundations of the Palestinian state". Israeli anti-settlement watchdog Peace Now called the measure a "mega land grab". Jonathan Mizrahi, the NGO's co-director, told AFP that the move would allocate new resources for land regis-tration. The process will take place only in Area C, which con-stitutes some 60 per cent of West Bank territory and is under Israeli security and adminis-trative control. "There was a lot of ambi-guity regarding the land, and Israel has now decided to deal with it," Mizrahi said, adding that the grey area over Area C land ownership is likely to be used against Palestinians.

Man suspected of selling sex with his wife to 120 men

STOCKHOLM, AP/PTI: A man in northern Sweden is sus-pected of exploiting his wife and selling sex with her to at least 120 men, the pros-ecutor in charge of the case told The Associated Press on Monday.

The man has been in cus-tody since October, after the woman reported the incidents to police, and in-vestigators have been pre-paring criminal charges of aggravated procurement. Investigators believe the husband ruthlessly exploit-ed his wife on a large scale, prosecutor Ida Annerstedt said.

Prosecutors spoke pub-licly on Monday for the first time about the total number of men believed to be involved. They have not identified the couple.

'Godfather' and 'Apocalypse Now' actor Robert Duvall dies at 95

LOS ANGELES, AFP

Robert Duvall, who played the smooth mafia law-yer in "The Godfather" and stole the show with his depiction of a surfing-crazed colonel in "Apocalypse Now," has died at the age of 95, his wife said on Monday. His death on Sunday was confirmed by his wife, Luci-ana Duvall. "Yesterday, we said goodbye to my beloved husband, cherished friend, and one of the greatest actors of our time. Bob passed away peacefully at home," she wrote. Blunt-talking, prolific and glitz-averse, Duvall won an Oscar for best actor and was nominated six other times. Over his six-decade-long ca-reer, he shone in both lead and supporting roles and eventual-ly became a director. "To the world, he was an



Robert Duvall was well known for his role as the mafia's lawyer in "The Godfather". AFP FILE

Academy Award-winning actor, a director, a storyteller. To me, he was simply every-thing," Luciana Duvall said. "His passion for his craft was matched only by his deep love for characters, a great meal, and holding court." Duvall won his Academy

Award in 1983 for playing a washed-up country singer in "Tender Mercies." But his most memorable characters also included the soft-spoken, loyal mob consigliere Tom Hagen in the first two instal-ments of "The Godfather" and the maniacal Lieutenant Col-onel William Kilgore in Francis Ford Coppola's 1979 Vietnam War epic "Apocalypse Now." The latter, which earned Duvall an Oscar nomination and made him a bona fide star after years playing lesser roles, sees him utter what is now one of cinema's most famous lines. Duvall was sort of a late bloomer in Hollywood — he was already 31 when he de-livered his breakout perfor-mance as the mysterious re-cluse Boo Radley in the 1962 film adaptation of Harper Lee's novel "To Kill a Mock-ingbird."

UAE's stability integral part of Pakistan's security, says Munir

ISLAMABAD, PTI: The se-curity and stability of the UAE is an "integral part" of Pakistan's own security, Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir said on Monday. Munir made the remarks during a meeting with Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Ruler of Abu Dhabi and Nation-

al Security Advisor of the UAE. The meeting took place in Abu Dhabi. According to a statement by the army, the two sides discussed ways to further strength-en bilateral cooperation across various sectors, particularly in the fields of economic collaboration, investment and security.

Attacks on Sudan market kills 28 people

CAIRO, AP/PTI: Strikes on a market in central Sudan's Kordofan region killed at least 28 people and wound-ed dozens, said a rights group on Monday, as the war between the army and a paramilitary group nears its three-year mark. Emergency Lawyers, a rights group tracking violence against civilians, said in a statement that drones bombed a market in Sudri locality in North Kordofan province on Sunday, during a time the market was bustling with civilians, "exacerbating the humanitarian tragedy." The group said the number of casualties was likely to rise. "The repeated use of drones to target populated areas shows a grave disre-gard for civilian lives and signals an escalation that threatens what remains of daily life," the statement said.

India and UK can become best places for AI adoption: British minister

LONDON, PTI: The big artificial intelligence laboratories may be found in the US and Chi-na, but India and Britain can become the best places in the world for the adoption of AI, UK Minister for AI and Online Safety Kanishka Narayan said. The Bihar-born Labour MP

from Wales, who is in India to attend the AI Impact Summit, which opened in New Delhi on Monday, believes the tech-nology presents huge benefits across the services, healthcare and life sciences sectors. Narayan's core message during his two-city tour this

week, covering Bengaluru and Delhi, will be to highlight that both countries are pursuing the same objective of ensuring the "exceptional" economic opportunity of AI is tapped into responsibly. "A lot of the big AI labs are in the US or in China. The oppor-

tunity for the UK and India is to become the best places in the world for the adoption of AI; not necessarily just the inven-tion of AI," Narayan said. "I think that's a really im-portant and big area. I'm think-ing adoption in areas like ser-vices, in areas like health-care,

India has got a huge popula-tion and a large-scale, innova-tive healthcare sector as well. The UK has a world-leading life sciences sector anchored by the NHS (National Health Service) — huge exchanges to be done in learning there, in particular.

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O. Bengaluru-560 072. www.isec.ac.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION

ISEC invites Tenders from reputed authorised vendors in two cover system for Supply of 2 Nos of Rack Server.

For more details visit our website: www.isec.ac.in.
Last date for submitting tender is 27th February 2026.

Date: February 11, 2026

Sd/-
Registrar

MISC-397/2025-26
Tender Notices are also available at Website
www.ee.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

CENTRAL AYURVEDA RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

A Walk-in-interview for contractual posts will be held at CARI Bengaluru on **03.03.2026**. Visit www.cari.gov.in or www.ccras.nic.in for further details.

Sd/-
Asst. Director in Charge

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client intends to purchase the following properties mentioned in the schedule hereunder from the owners of the property by names (1) Sri. Venkataramanappa S/o. Late. Pappiah, (2) Smt. Chowdamma W/o. Venkataramanappa, (3) V. Narayanaswamy, (4) V. Krishnamurthy, (5) V. Nagesh (No. 3 to 5 are the children of Venkataramanappa), all residing at No.146 & 296/1, Horamavu, Agara, Bengaluru - 560 043. In case any member/s of the General Public has/have got any claim over the said properties it is hereby called upon to approach the undersigned with all relevant documents within 15 days from the date of this notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that peace and parcel of Agricultural Dry Land property bearing Sy.No.95/3 measuring 0-2 guntas; Sy. No.95/4, measuring 1 Acre 0-12 guntas; Sy.No.95/5, measuring 1 Acre 0-12 guntas and Sy. No.95/6 measuring 1 Acre 0-12 guntas totally measuring 3 acres 0-36 guntas and 0-4 guntas kharab, situated at Tiruvange Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, which is bounded on: **East** by : Road, **West** by : Property in Sy.No. 97, **North** by : Properties in Sy.No.95/1, 95/2, 95/7 and 95/8, **South** by : Properties in Sy.No. 92, 93 & 96.

B.S. RADHANANDAN Advocate
No.239/1, 4th Main Road, Chamaraipet, Bangalore - 560 018.Moblie : 9845009885
E-mail : nandanandha@yahoo.com
Place : Bengaluru Date : 16-2-2026

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender No. : **BMF-03-05-Fabrication 2400, dated 11.02.2026**. Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, Bogie Manufacturing Factory, Eastern Railway, 88/1, Adhar Das Road, Budge Budge, Kolkata, West Bengal - 700137 invites e-Tenders against **Tender No. BMF-03-05-Fabrication 2400** for the following work. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work:** Fabrication of LHB Bogie Frames through Outsourcing at Bogie Manufacturing Factory, Eastern Railway, Budge Budge.

Bidding System: Single Packet System. **Advertised Value:** ₹ 4,70,54,400.00. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 3,85,300.00. **Tender Document Cost :** ₹ 0.00. **Period of Completion:** 12 Months. **Validity of Offer:** 120 Days. **Date and Time of uploading Tender:** 11.02.2026 at 17.29 hrs. **Bidding Start Date:** 19.02.2026. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 05.03.2026 at 11.00 hrs. The details are available at website www.ireps.gov.in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi looks at a demonstration during the inauguration of the India AI Impact Expo at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

India's AI strides reflect both ambition, responsibility: PM

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

With the world's largest artificial intelligence conclave, the India AI Impact Summit 2026, beginning on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that India stands at the forefront of the global AI transformation and that the nation's strides in the field reflect both ambition and responsibility.

The PM formally opened the AI Impact Expo at Bharat Mandapam, which features over 600 high-potential startups and 13 country pavilions showcasing international collaboration in the AI ecosystem. He also visited various stalls and interacted with participating companies and startups.

In a post on X, Modi said, "Bringing the world together to discuss AI! Starting today, India hosts the AI Impact Summit at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi. I warmly welcome world leaders, captains of industry, innovators, policymakers, researchers and tech enthusiasts from across the world for this Summit."

The theme of the summit is "Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya" or welfare for all, happiness for all, reflecting our shared commitment to harnessing AI for human-centric progress, he said.

The five-day event, from February 16-20, features more than 3,250 speakers and over 500 sessions, with multiple parallel tracks running si-

multaneously across various venues.

Highlighting AI's transformative role, the PM noted that the technology is already reshaping critical sectors, including healthcare, education, agriculture, governance, and enterprise.

He said the summit would enrich global discourse on key aspects of AI, such as innovation, collaboration, and responsible development. "I am confident that the outcomes of the summit will help shape a future that is progressive, innovative and opportunity-driven," Modi said.

He added: "Thanks to the 1.4 billion people of India, our nation stands at the forefront of the AI transformation. From digital public infrastructure to a vibrant startup ecosystem and cutting-edge research, our strides in AI reflect both ambition and responsibility."

Spanning more than 70,000 sq metres across 10 arenas, the AI Impact Expo brings together global technology firms, startups, academia, research institutions, Union ministries, state governments, and international partners.

The expo includes 13 country pavilions from Australia, Japan, Russia, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Serbia, Estonia, Tajikistan, and African countries, highlighting global cooperation in AI.

India is positioning itself at centre of discussions on democratising AI

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The world's largest artificial intelligence conclave, the India AI Impact Summit 2026, kicked off on Monday at Bharat Mandapam here, drawing technologists, policymakers, industry leaders, founders, and enthusiasts in huge numbers to deliberate on the transformative impact of the technology.

Reflecting the immense interest in the event, long queues formed outside Bharat Mandapam, with packed halls and overflowing crowds from the very first day. There were some logistics issues, but the conference was orderly and well-organised.

The five-day summit, running from February 16-20, features over 3,250 speakers and more than 500 sessions,



Curious youngsters observe a robot at a stall during the India AI Impact Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

with multiple parallel tracks running simultaneously — all filled to capacity.

S Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), announced that over 2.5 lakh participants from across India and around the world have registered, far-exceeding expectations. "The enthusiasm to participate in the event has truly

grown. We never anticipated that there would be so many people willing and wanting to attend, which is why we did not restrict registrations. So, on all days except the 19th, everyone is welcome to attend the various sessions," he said.

High-profile speakers, including Sundar Pichai of Alphabet (Google), Sam Altman of OpenAI, and Dario Amodei of Anthropic, are scheduled

to address sessions starting Wednesday onwards.

The final two days — February 19 and 20 — will feature more than 20 heads of state and government, including French President Emmanuel Macron, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, engaging in discussions on the future of AI alongside business leaders and investors.

S KRISHNAN
Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

The enthusiasm to participate in the event has truly grown. We never anticipated that there would be so many people willing and wanting to attend, which is why we did not restrict registrations. So, on all days except the 19th, everyone is welcome to attend the various sessions.

The summit focuses on expanding access to AI technologies, strengthening digital public infrastructure, and building consensus around shared global frameworks for responsible AI development. India is positioning itself at the centre of discussions on democratising AI and fostering international cooperation on emerging technologies.

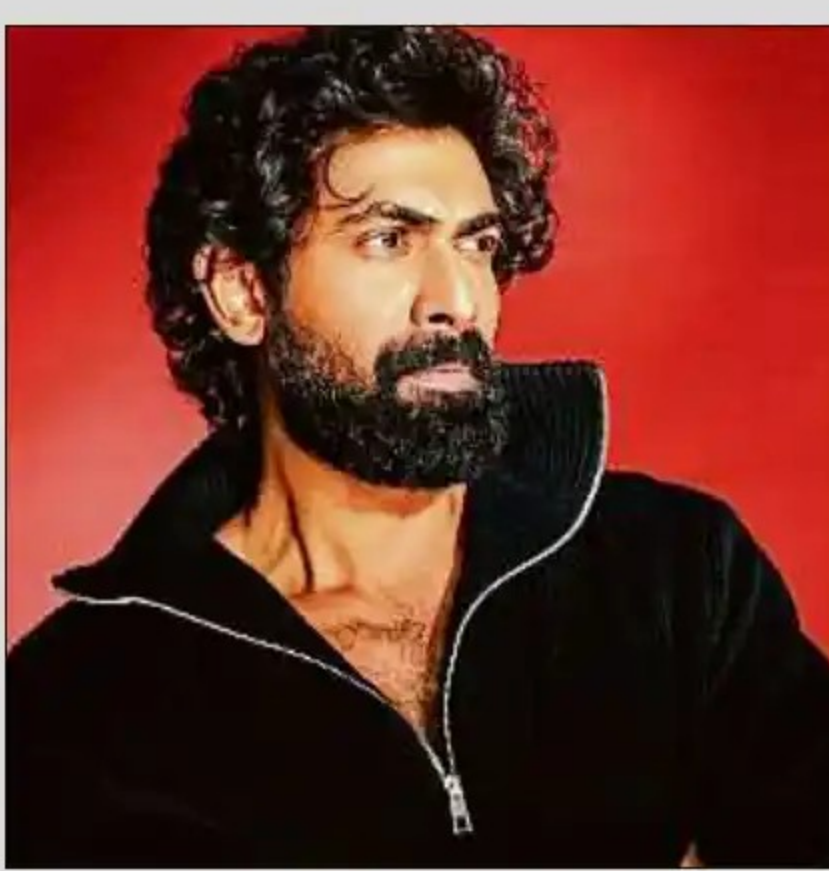
Running alongside the summit is a major expo featuring the who's who of the global tech industry — including Google, Nvidia, Amazon, Meta, OpenAI, Microsoft, and leading Indian companies — showcasing cutting-edge AI innovations.

'AI & human creativity to shape future workforce'

UMA KANNAN
NEW DELHI, DHNS

AI and creativity will shape the future of the workforce as the former is transforming design, media, storytelling and innovation. Industry leaders gathered at the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi discussed how new technologies are helping people in the creative space enhance their skills.

Actor Rana Daggubati, who is also an entrepreneur running Anthill Studio, said AI is playing a great role in pre-production of films. While earlier getting a shot done in visual effects would



Rana Daggubati

take 3-5 days, now it takes only 2-3 hours, he said, highlighting that certain skills cannot be replaced.

Ashish Kulkarni, founder of Punarnyug Artvision, said AI is giving great perspective in pre-production and

pre-visualisation. It affects from ideation to script and screen, he said. "New technologies enhance the storytelling aspect. Emotional and behavioural intelligence are more important than AI," he said.

While new technologies bring in a lot of changes, experts also stressed that foundational skills, especially in the creative industry, have to be taught to students.

Industry leaders mentioned that AI has emerged as a transformative force with the potential to accelerate the country's economic growth, strengthen governance and improve the quality of life of

citizens.

At a session on AI x Creativity: Skilling for Innovation in the Intelligent Economy, Rishi Raj Singh of MakeMyTrip said AI has given the ability to talk to consumers one-on-one and also hyper-personalise things for them. Indians are contributing a lot to the travel economy now and AI will play an even larger role, going forward.

Tools will continue to evolve and now conversation has been shifted on how work needs to be done and how one can add more value to it, said Saransh Agrawal, Global Head — Cognizant Learning & Development.

Anthropic opens office in Bengaluru; to hire local talent

This is its second office in Asia after Tokyo

BENGALURU, DHNS

Anthropic, an AI safety and research company, on Monday opened its office in Bengaluru and announced partnerships across enterprise, modernising systems, and shipping production software in the country. Led by Managing Director of India, Irina Ghose, the office will focus on hiring local talent across a wide array of roles. This is its second office in Asia after Tokyo.

"Our revenue run-rate in India has doubled since we announced our expansion in October 2025, and the range of organisations building on Claude reflects how broadly that growth is distributed — from large enterprises to digital-native companies to startups shipping their first products," Ghose said

in a statement.

To support this growing customer base, the India team will offer applied AI expertise to enterprise customers, digital natives and startups, helping them design, build, and scale Claude-powered solutions tailored to their business needs, she said.

"India represents one of the world's most-promising opportunities to bring the benefits of responsible AI to vastly more people and enterprises," Ghose said.

India is home to extraordinary technical talent, digital infrastructure at scale, and a proven track record of using technology to improve people's lives, she said, adding, "That's exactly the foundation you need to make sure this technology reaches the people who can benefit from it the most."

India is the second-largest market for Claude.ai, home to a developer community doing some of the most technically-intense AI work.

Nearly half of Claude usage in India comprises computer and mathematical tasks: building applications, modernising systems, and shipping production software.

Over the last six months, Anthropic has built language capabilities in India's 10-most widely spoken languages such as Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Punjabi, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, and Urdu.

It is now working with Karva and the Collective Intelligence Project to build evaluations testing performance on locally-relevant tasks across domains like agriculture and law, in partnership with domain experts from leading Indian non-profits including Digital Green and Adalat AI.

"This work will inform how we improve future models for speakers of Indic languages and for use cases important to India and the businesses that use Claude. We intend to make the evaluations publicly available for others to use," the company's statement said.



Irina Ghose

AI progress won't happen by drift, says CEA Nageswaran

UMA KANNAN
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) progress will not happen by drift, but will require political will, state capacity, and a clear national commitment to aligning technological adoption with mass employability, said Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran.

Speaking at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 during a session on The Future of Employability in the Age of AI, Nageswaran said India can

become the first large society where human abundance and machine intelligence reinforce, and not undermine each other. "This will not happen by drift, this will require an urgent say. It will require political will, state capacity, and a clear national commitment to aligning technological adoption with mass employability," he said.

Vineet Nayar, who is the former CEO of HCL Technologies and founder of Sampark Foundation, said AI is automating sub-skills and it has been happening for many years. He



V Anantha Nageswaran

warned that there are many people in the IT industry who are doing sub-skill tasks and that if we are not careful, it will lead to more unemployment. "We need urgent attention," he said, stressing that schools

should introduce curriculum in a way that students start imagining new solutions.

The amount of investment in technology will grow 11-14% YoY soon and macro skills are needed in this AI era, he added. He highlighted the need to create employment and the new curriculum should teach different problem solving skills.

Speaking at another session, Prof MS Vijay Kumar of MIT's Education Innovation Movement, said they have launched a platform called Universal AI and there is a set of courses for

foundational AI learning. "Our intent is to reach a billion learners," he said.

Many experts at the panel discussion highlighted the need to reskill employees.

Manish Kumar, MD and CEO of NSDC said the industry demands certain competencies and people need to reskill themselves. "AI is throwing us a lot of opportunities, and the education system is not going to change overnight, but we need to realise that change is necessary to become more creative," he added.

Priyank discusses AI with UK minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge met UK Minister for AI and Digital Government Kanishka Narayan in Bengaluru on Monday to discuss matters related to AI, online safety, digital public infrastructure, startup ecosystems, and cross-border innovation partnerships.

Both leaders discussed the importance of data sovereignty, ethical AI deployment, and strategic independence in AI infrastructure. A key out-

come of the meeting was the proposal to create a formal Karnataka-UK Innovation Bridge to deepen startup and ecosystem linkages between the two regions. The proposals include joint co-working and incubation spaces for UK and Karnataka startups, annual bilateral startup exchange programmes, collaboration between CoEs in priority AI sectors, accelerated market access support for startups in both ecosystems.

Narayan noted the UK's interest in structured,

sector-specific collaboration, particularly in AI for science, curated national datasets, and advanced compute infrastructure. "Deeper collaboration with Karnataka can help shape globally-relevant, trusted AI systems," he said.

"Through focused policies, infrastructure, and partnerships, we are ensuring that Karnataka remains deeply integrated with global technology value-chains and continues to be a preferred destination for innovation," Kharge noted.

Trade deficit widens to \$34.68 billion in January

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's trade deficit widened to \$34.68 billion in January, from \$25.04 billion in the previous month, largely driven by higher gold and silver imports, even as exports were hit due to high US tariffs, data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed on Monday.

Merchandise exports fell to \$36.56 billion in January, from \$38.51 billion in December, while imports rose to \$71.24 billion from \$63.55 billion.

Gold imports surged by 350% to \$12.07 billion in January, from \$4.13 billion in the

previous month, driven by a spike in prices. Silver import surged 127% during the period.

On a year-on-year basis, exports were marginally higher by 0.61%, while imports surged 19.2%. During the April-January period, India's goods exports went up 2.22% to \$366.63 billion.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said overall exports, merchandise and services combined, is likely to surpass \$860 billion in the fiscal ending March 2026. During the April-January period of the current fiscal, overall exports stood at \$720.76 billion, 6.15% higher, compared with the correspond-

ing period of the previous year.

The US remains India's top export destination, while China stays as the top source of imports. In the fiscal so far, India shipped goods worth \$72.46 billion to the US, higher by 6%, compared to \$68.46 billion in the year-ago period. Imports from China in the April-January period rose to \$108.18 billion, up nearly 14%, as against \$95.05 billion a year ago.

"India's latest trade data for January 2026 highlight the pronounced impact of US tariffs on export performance, while also hinting at early signs of market diversification," Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said.

Markets rebound nearly 1% on buying in power, banking stocks

MUMBAI, PTI: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded sharply by nearly 1% on Monday, driven by strong buying in power, banking, and financial stocks.

Snapping its three-day decline, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 650.39 points, or 0.79%, to close at 83,277.15. The 50-share NSE Nifty advanced 211.65 points, or 0.83%, to settle at 25,682.75.

Power Grid emerged the top gainer, rising 4.45%, followed by HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, NTPC, ITC, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finserv, Bharti Airtel, Adani Ports, Tata Steel, Ko-

tak Mahindra Bank, RIL and SBI. Tech Mahindra, Maruti Suzuki India, Bajaj Finance, Trent, Mahindra & Mahindra, Titan, Infosys, ICICI Bank, and UltraTech Cement were laggards.

"After a range-bound opening, markets edged higher, supported by renewed buying interest in banking and power stocks. The power sector gained on expectations of sustained demand momentum. At the same time, improved loan growth and stable asset quality bolstered confidence in banks," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments, said.

WPI inflation rises to 9-month high of 1.81% in Jan

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Wholesale price inflation rose to a nine-month high of 1.81% in January, driven by an uptick in prices of food and manufactured items, government data showed on Monday.

Food inflation, which was flat at 0% in December, picked up to 1.41% in January. Inflation in manufactured products jumped to 2.86% in January, from 1.82% in the previous month.

However, negative inflation, or deflation, continued in the fuel and power sectors, at 4.01% in January, as against



2.31% in December.

The Wholesale Price Index-based (WPI) inflation was recorded at 2.51% in January 2025. In December 2025, it stood at 0.83%.

"Positive rate of inflation in January 2026, is primarily due to increase in prices of manufacture of basic metals, other manufacturing, non-food articles, food articles and

textiles etc," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

Retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 2.75% in January. Though the new CPI series has been released with 2024 as the base year, the WPI continues to be in the old base (2011-12).

Vegetables became costlier by 6.78% year-on-year in the wholesale market. Fruits inflation stood at 1.78%, while wholesale milk inflation was recorded at 2.51% during the month under review.

Manufactured goods inflation also strengthened, rising to 2.9% in January from 1.8% in December.

Gritty J&K
fight back after
Shami's blitz

KALYANI (WB), PTI: Mo-hammed Shami on Monday bowled a couple of incisive spells to get three wickets but Jammu and Kashmir did well enough to reach 198/5 against Bengal on the second day of the Ranji Trophy semifinal, which remains evenly poised going into the third day here.

Bengal's first innings ended at 328 after starting the day at 249/5 with Auqib Nabi (5/87 in 26 overs) completing another five-wicket haul and a milestone of 50 wickets in the ongoing Ranji Trophy season. Bengal's in-form batter Sudip Kumar Gharami (146, 246 balls) could only add 10 more runs to his overnight unbeaten score of 136 as Nabi got one to tail in and found his pads.

Sumanta Gupta (39) did give the charge but the hosts couldn't press home the advantage with both Nabi and left-arm seamer Sunil Kumar used the second new ball to good effect.

Brief scores: Bengal: (O/n: 249/5): 328 all out in 97.1 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 49, Sudip Kumar Gharami 146, Shahbaz Ahmed 42, Sumanta Gupta 39, Auqib Nabi 5-87, Sunil Kumar 3-41) vs J&K: 198/5 in 51 overs (Paras Dogra 58, Abdul Samad 82, Mohammed Shami 3-60, Mukesh Kumar 2-40).



Mohammed Shami

Arsenal rout
Wigan to reach
fifth round

LONDON, AFP: Arsenal powered into the FA Cup fifth round for the first time in six years as the quadruple chasers crushed Wigan 4-0 on Sunday.

Mikel Arteta's side routed the third-tier strugglers with four goals in the first 27 minutes of the fourth round tie at the Emirates Stadium.

Noni Madueke and Gabriel Martinelli netted before Jack Hunt's own goal was followed by a Gabriel Jesus strike.

The Gunners are back in the last 16 for the first time since they won the FA Cup in 2020, a success that remains the only major trophy of Arteta's reign.

Results (4th round): Liverpool: 3 (Curtis Jones 42nd, Dominik Szoboszlai 56th, Mohamed Salah 68th) bt Brighton: 0; Birmingham: 1 (Patrick Roberts 89th) It to Leeds United: 1 (Lukas Nmecha 49th) vs PS: 2-4; Grimsby Town: 0 It to Wolves: 1 (Santiago Bueno 60th); Stoke city: 1 (Bae Jun-ho 19th) It to Fulham: 2 (Kevin 55th, Harrison Reed 84th); Oxford United: 0 It to Sunderland: 1 (Habib Diarra 32nd); Arsenal: 4 (Noni Madueke 11th, Gabriel Martinelli 19th, Jack Hunt 23rd OG, Gabriel Jesus 27th) bt Wigan Athletic: 0.

Karnataka in
quarterns despite
conceding lead

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka qualified for the quarterfinals of the Col CK Nayudu Trophy despite conceding the first-innings lead to hosts Himachal Pradesh on the final day of their last Elite Group D match in Am-tar on Monday.

Karnataka, who needed at least two points from the match to qualify, bagged seven points (one point for the draw, four batting points and two bowling points) from the match to finish second in the group behind Chhattisgarh.

Karnataka will visit Group B toppers Mumbai in the quarterfinals from February 21-24.

Karnataka bowlers had another tough day at work as hosts Himachal Pradesh took their overnight score from 473/6 to 603/7 in 187.1 overs after Karnataka posted 537 all out in the first innings.

Tailender Daksh Narayan scored an unbeaten 104 while stitching two 100-plus stands with Deep Singh (58) and Aditya Chauhan (61 not out) respectively.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 537 drew with HP: (O/n: 473/6): 603/7 in 187.1 overs (Sagar Malhan 54, Atul Jaswal 54, Inmesh Mahajan 62, Vaibhav Kalita 64, Deep Singh 58, Daksh Narayan 104 n.o., Aditya Chauhan 61 n.o.; Hardik Raj 2-117, Yash-wardhan Parantap 2-83).

CRICKET RANJI TROPHY
Karnataka pile on more misery

Padikkal's 232 takes former
champs to 689/6 vs U'khand

LUCKNOW, PTI

Skipper Devdutt Padikkal led from the front with a maiden double hundred in first-class cricket as a dominant Karnataka posted an imposing 689 for six, compounding Uttarakhand's misery in their Ranji Trophy semifinal here on Monday.

On another fruitful day for the Karnataka batters, Ravichandran Smaran too helped himself to a fluent century,

SCORE BOARD
KARNATAKA (1 Innings O/n: 355/2): KL Rahul c&b Aditya 141 (211b, 11x4, 5x6), Mayank Agarwal c Chopra b Aditya 5 (32b, 1x4), Devdutt Padikkal c Rawat b Raichandani 232 (330b, 29x4, 3x6), Karun Nair c Rawat b Negi 60 (105b, 8x4, 1x6), Smaran R (batting) 121 (191b, 11x4), Shreyas Gopal b Aditya 0 (6b), Kruthik Krishna b Avneesh 60 (103b, 6x4, 1x6), Vidyadhar Patil (batting) 35 (107b, 1x4, 1x6), Extras (NB-5, W-8, B-11, LB-6, pen 5) 35. **TOTAL (for 6 wkts, 180 overs) 689.** **Fall of wickets:** 1-18 (Agarwal), 2-296 (Rahul), 3-425 (Karun), 4-484 (Padikkal), 5-485 (Shreyas), 6-608 (Kruthik).

Bowling: Abhay Negi 29-4-99-1, Janmejay Joshi 29-5-94-0, Aditya Rawat 29-3-132-3, Mayank Mishra 38-1-167-0, Jagadeesha Suchithi 10-0-43-0, Avneesh Sudha 35-2-107-1, 10-1-25-1.

scoring an unbeaten 121 off 191 balls with the help of 11 bound-aries.

Padikkal made a monumen-tal 232 off 330 balls, striking 29 fours and three sixes during his long vigil at the crease.

Resuming at their overnight total of 355 for two, Karnata-ka started the second's play from where it had left on first evening, with the duo of Pa-dikkal and Karun Nair (60 off 105 balls) stitching together a partnership of 129 runs for the third wicket to continue their team's domination.

Uttarakhand tasted the day's first success when medium pacer Abhay Negi dismissed Karun with a back of a length delivery that angled away, and the nick was taken by wicket-keeper Saurabh Rawat.

Padikkal, who began the day at 148 not out, contin-ued to play confidently and reached his first-ever double century in 288 balls, with Smaran too looking good at the other end.

However, having added 59 runs with Smaran, Padikkal tried to work a turning Lakshya Raichandani delivery to-wards fine-leg but only ended up edging it to Rawat behind the stumps, bringing to an



Highest scores by Karnataka captains in Ranji Trophy			
Score	By	Vs	Season
249	Mayank Agarwal	Saurashtra	2022/23
232	Devdutt Padikkal	Uttarakhand	2025/26
215	Rahul Dravid	Uttar Pradesh	1997/98
213*	V Subramayna	Madras	1966/67
210	Rahul Dravid	Hyderabad	1998/99
209*	Rahul Dravid	Uttar Pradesh	2009/10

COMPILED BY ARUN GOPALAKRISHNAN

end his long stay in the middle amid a round of applause and acknowledgement.

Shreyas Gopal was on his

way back for a duck after facing just six, bowled by Ad-itya Rawat as Uttarakhand seemed to have finally found



Devdutt Padikkal's (left) 232 against Uttarakhand in the Ranji Trophy semifinal is the second highest individual knock by a Karnataka skipper in the tournament. Smaran R also scored a fluent unbeaten 121 on Day 2.

an opening to get to the Kar-nataka lower-order at 485 for five.

However, after his cap-tain's dismissal, 22-year-old Smaran found an able ally in wicketkeeper Kruthik Krishna, with whom the 22-year-old explosive batter added 123 runs for the sixth wicket to further frustrate Uttarakhand.

Krishna's contribution in the stand was a handsome 60 off 103 balls, and his knock was laced with six fours and a six at the Ekana Cricket Stadium.

Gibson, Tararudee
lead charge in W100

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Upgraded to ITF W100 from W50 a couple of years ago, the top-tier women's tennis tour-nament is back in Bengaluru with the main draw set to be-gin from Tuesday at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium.

The second of the three ITF events in the country - follow-ing the W75 in Pune last week and the W15 in Gurugram scheduled next week - will see Australia's Talia Gibson, ranked 112 in the world, as the top-seed and Thailand's Lanlana Tararudee, world No. 126, as the second seed. The two 21-year-olds lead charge in a field that will fea-ture six Indians in the opening round among a bunch of play-ers from various nationalities.

While Gibson will open her campaign against home qualifier Vaidehee Chaud-hari, Tararudee is drawn against lucky loser Victoria Milovanova of Russia. Vaide-hee came through by defeat-ing Evgeniya Burdina 6-2, 7-5 in the second qualifying round on Monday to be the only one among 13 Indians to survive the qualifiers.

As for the other Indians in fray, the country's top-ranked women's singles player Saha-ja Yamalapalli (ranked 428) has South Korea's Dayeon Back (No. 304) as her open-ing round opponent, while India's No. 2 Shrivalli R Bha-midipaty (WR 569), who re-ceived a main draw wild card, will take on Malta's Francesca

Padikkal 'happy'
after maiden 200

BENGALURU, DHNS

As he left Uttarakhand ravaged with 232 off 330 deliveries with 29 fours and three sixes, Karnataka skipper Devdutt Padikkal (in pic) was "really happy" knowing he had ticked off what he could not earlier -- a first-class double hundred.

In the first round of the 2024 Ranji Tro-phy season, Padikkal helped Karnataka to a comfortable seven-wicket vic-tory over Punjab but fell seven runs short of a well-deserved double ton in Hubbali.

However, two seasons on, an in-form Padikkal notched up his first 200 in the semi-finals against Uttarakhand at the Ekana Stadium in Luc-know and after recording his second hundred after being named the Karnataka skip-per.

"Yeah, I still remember that match against Punjab. I



was pretty disappointed that I couldn't get the double hun-dred that day. So today, when I got close to the double hun-dred, I wanted to make sure that I got that. So I'm really happy about it," Padikkal said at the end of the second day's play.

With stumps were drawn on Day 2, Karnataka have piled up a massive 689/6 in 180 overs.

Talking about the Lucknow surface, "It's a great wicket so far. It's held on and we knew that coming into this game as well, Lucknow generally has produced some really good wickets for multi-day cricket."

With four wickets still in Karnataka's kitty, skipper Padikkal had no intentions in declaring anytime soon.

"And we're happy that so far it's played really well. And hopefully we can continue to bat well and put a really big total on the board."

East Bengal cruise past NorthEast

KOLKATA, AGENCIES: East Bengal FC kicked off its ISL 2025-26 campaign with a solid 3-0 win over NorthEast United FC at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on Sun-day. After dominating the first half without scoring, the Red and Gold Brigade got the job done in the second half

through goals from Youssef Ezzejjari (two) and Miguel Ferreira.

Ezzejjari opened the scoring in the 65th minute, head-ing in Bipin Singh's cross. The Spanish forward then made it 2-0 in the 71st minute.

Result: East Bengal: 3 (Ezzejjari 65th, 71st, Figueira 90+2nd) bt NEUFC: 0.

Players' feedback about Bengaluru event
is incredibly positive, says ITF's Moss

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

With nearly 1,200 tour-naments - two cate-gories for men and five for women - organised around the world throughout the year, the International Tennis Federation (ITF), the world governing body for the game, calls itself the 'Guardian of the Game'.

At the helm of this rapidly evolving organisation and its operations in a global sport is Andrew Moss, Executive Di-rector of ITF's World Tennis Tour. Moss is in the city, where the main draw fixtures of the third edition of the KPB Trust ITF Women's Open W100 kick off from Tuesday, and the Brit-on dwelled into details of man-aging the demands of tennis, its players, conducting events and more in a chat with a select media. Excerpts.

How has the ITF W100 in Bengaluru grown over the years?

What I'm particularly delighted about is that when this tournament started a couple of years ago (in 2021) it was a W50 event with \$40,000 total cash prize and 50 ranking points for the winner. But now, for the last two years, this year included, it's a W100, 100 points for the winner, \$100,000 in prize money, and it makes a massive difference.

The feedback from the



Andrew Moss, Executive Director of ITF's World Tennis Tour, at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium ahead of the ITF Women's Open W100 in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR PS

players is incredibly positive. The services that are put on for the them here, high stand-ard of hospitality in the local hotels, the fact that the facili-ties here at the Cubbon Park, the courts and how they're maintained, the players are extremely happy.

Do you have plans of taking such top-tier ITF events outside Bengaluru? What are the cities/ towns that you are looking at?

Having hosted ITF events in Mysuru and Kalaburgi in the past, we know there is real in-terest and passion for tennis in these cities. The facilities to support a good tournament are conducive too. The previ-ous men's event in Kalaburgi, for example, had over 1,500

spectators for the final match. So for sure, the details can be worked out in collaboration with AITA and KSLTA and look at how we can further expand such possibilities.

If you look at the ITF calendar, last year alone, India hosted around 11 tournaments for men and around 10 for women. So, for such a big country, what would be the ideal number of tournaments it should be conducting?

Double the number of tourna-ments, I think that would be a great interim goal. Because I think there's clearly the availability of venues, there's clearly the demand from the players. And I think working collaboratively with all stake-

holders, I think there's clearly the means to deliver that. I think there's room for growth in India, no question.

How do you manage an ever-expanding calendar?

Historically, Europe has half the number of tournaments on the calendar. But there are gaps where Europe doesn't host. That's a particularly good time for other regions of the world to host, but I don't think that should be restrictive. It's an incredibly complex job because we're always trying to work with national associations and tournament organisers on the best approach, whilst also making sure that we create logical, coherent swings for players.

There are 75 countries that host World Tennis Tour tournaments, and there are different priorities that differ-ent countries have for their players. It's no use having one event here and then nothing. It's a complex task because of the number of countries in-volved, and it's always a work in progress, but I think we've made significant progress over the last four to five years in particular.

Our view, also, is that there should be more women's tournaments. So our job, it's very interesting as we always want to keep on pushing to make sure that women can get those opportunities at the right level.

Meillard bags fourth Swiss gold

BORMIO (ITALY), AFP

Loic Meillard won the Swiss men's team their fourth Olympic gold in the five alpine skiing events in Bormio when he streaked to victory in the slalom on Monday.

The 29-year-old downhill skier clocked a winning time of 1min 53.61sec, with Austrian Fabio Gstrein taking silver at 0.35sec and Norway's Henrik Kristoffersen rounding out the podium (+1.13).

Meillard's gold caps an in-credible couple of weeks for the Swiss men's team, Franjo von Almlen having won the down-hill and super-G titles before then pairing with Tanguy Nef to win the team combined.

Meillard, who had already taken team combined silver with Marco Odermatt and gi-ant slalom bronze in Bormio, was second fastest in the first



Switzerland's Loic Meillard in action during the men's slalom event of the Milano Cortina Winter Olympics in Bormio on Monday. REUTERS

leg behind Norway's Atle Lie McGrath and laid down the joint fastest second leg for vic-tory.

There was late drama as Mc-Grath bombed out of his sec-ond leg, hitting a gate high up the course so hard it knocked

him out of his rhythm. Disgust-ed, McGrath hurled his poles over the safety netting that lined the Stelvio piste, with nearby Swiss team members embracing each other in ce-lebration.

McGrath then trudged off

to the other side of the course, despondent, lying in the snow in angry reflection.

Curling controversy

The curling controversy at the Winter Olympics widened as increased surveillance of the matches resulted in the re-moval of a stone thrown by the British men's team for the same alleged violation that burned the Canadians two days in a row.

In the ninth end of Britain's round-robin game against Germany, officials said Scot-tish curler Bobby Lammie had touched a stone after releas-ing it down the ice. Such "dou-ble-touching" is against the rules. Britain won the match 9-4. Until Sunday, the allega-tions had been limited to Ca-nadian curlers, who represent one of the world's most fervent fan bases.

Ravinder saves
AGORC the
blushes

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ravin-der Singh converted a sec-ond-half penalty kick to earn AGORC FC a late 1-1 draw in a feisty affair against a young Roots FS in the BDFA A Division League Champi-onship at the BFS here on Monday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

With both sides already out of title contention and far enough from the relega-tion zone, Roots' skilful forward Rehaan A Shanaves curled in the opening goal in the 26th minute following a mazy run from the left flank.

An ageing AGORC side lacked the legs but had the experience of not allowing any further slip-ups. They eventually wore down their youthful opponent in the second half, eventually forc-ing them into a handball inside the box in the 76th minute.

Results: A Division: Roots FS: 1 (Re-haan A Shanaves 26th) drew with AGORC FC: 1 (Ravinder Singh 78th). **B Division: Group B:** Juno FC: 4 (Moirangthem Padma Jit Singh 18th, Muhammed Savad PN 30th, Ummarul Farook KA 36th P, 80+2nd) bt KSP FC: 1 (Nishith 76th).

Group A: Empire FC: 4 (Muhammed Ijas M 37th, 39th, 65th, Vishnu Prasad K 46th) bt Pillanna Garden FC: 1 (Stephen A 51st); Al Fateh FC: 1 (Zaib Sherief 66th) drew with South India FC: 1 (Je-didiah Marwein 63rd).



Off-colour Babar, Shaheen to be dropped for next match?

KARACHI, PTI: Pakistan are set to drop senior players Babar Azam and Shaheen Shah Afridi from their next T20 World Cup match against Namibia after the duo's failure to come good in the high-stakes game against India in Colombo, a reliable source in the team management said on Monday.

The source said that Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Mohsin Naqvi conveyed his displeasure over the team's performance in the 61-run loss to India to team manager Naved Akram Cheema.

"The Chairman left the match early as it became obvious Pakistan were going to face another defeat to India," the source said.

He said Naqvi, through a senior PCB official, also conveyed to the manager that such performances in matches that matter were not understandable or acceptable.

The source said head coach Mike Hesson also spoke to the players in the dressing room and told them that they had not played to their full potential.

"Late night the management think tank decided enough was enough and it was to bench Babar and Shaheen and try out Salman Mirza/ Naseem Shah and Fakhar Zaman against Namibia on Wednesday," he said.

The source said that if the changes prove to be successful, Babar and Shaheen's World Cup would be over as the management is also keen to try out young Khawaja Nafay in the middle order.

Pakistan cannot afford any slip-up against Namibia if they want to qualify for the super eight phase of the tournament. The team defeated lower-ranked USA and the Netherlands before the heavy loss to India.

Azam found himself in the line of fire as several former players in the country demanded his sacking alongside some other seniors.

"If it was in my hands, I would not pick Babar, Shadab and Shaheen again in the T20 team. They have had plenty of chances to come through for Pakistan but failed again yesterday," said former captain Shahid Afridi.



Babar Azam

Pakistan lost in first innings: Waqar

NEW DELHI, PTI: Pointing out Pakistan's tactical errors in the 61-run loss to India, pace legend Waqar Younis (in pic) said the side was out of the high-profile T20 World Cup clash the moment Suryakumar Yadav's men reached 175 after being invited to bat.

"Pakistan lost the game in the first innings. Once India reached 175, the game was out of Pakistan's reach. The ball was spinning, and Suryakumar Yadav was smart with his bowling changes," Younis said.

"When you look at how much spin Pakistani bowlers got, I don't think they used them as well as India did. Also, India scored too many runs."



SL progress with a stunning chase

Nissanka slams 52-ball 100 to put Aussies virtually out of tournament

PALLEKELE, PTI

Opener Pathum Nissanka on Monday turned a tricky chase into a walk in the park, his belligerent 52-ball 100 powering Sri Lanka to an eight-wicket win over Australia and securing their place in the Super Eights here.

Set a record target of 182 at this venue, Sri Lanka rode on Nissanka's unbeaten knock and Kusal Mendis's 38-ball 51 to complete the task in 18 overs and leave Australia's qualification hopes hanging by a thread.

Pavan Rathnayake remained not out on 28 off 15 balls.

Nissanka smashed 10 fours and five sixes during his match-winning knock.

Australia will now need to win by a massive margin against Oman in their final match and rely on both Sri Lanka and Ireland to beat Zimbabwe to have any sort of outside chance whatsoever.



Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka celebrates after scoring a century in his side's win against Australia in Pallekele on Monday. AFP

In fact if Zimbabwe manage to beat Ireland on Thursday, then Australia will be knocked out even before meeting Oman in their last group league game.

Earlier, Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head blazed away to explosive fifties before Lanka rallied to bowl out Australia for 181.

Coming back into the playing XI after missing the team's first two matches of the tournament due to an injury, Marsh got into the act straightaway, clobbering 54 in 27 balls.

Head was equally brutal during his 29-ball 56, as the opening duo added 104 runs in less than nine overs to set Australia up for a 200-plus total.

But the Sri Lankans did much better in the back 10, with leg-spinner Dushan Hemantha (3/37 in 4 overs) emerging as the most successful bowler for the home team. The last four wickets fell for only six runs.

In the chase, Sri Lanka copped an early blow when

Kusal Perera failed to connect properly with a Marcus Stoinis ball and ended up slicing it to the deep backward point fielder.

The packed stands at the Pallekele International Stadium went quiet, but the duo of Nissanka and Mendis had other ideas as they added 97 runs for the second wicket to keep Sri Lanka ahead at the halfway stage of their innings.

With 89 needed from 60 balls and with nine wickets in hand, Sri Lanka fancied their chances of overhauling the target.

But Stoinis struck again, as Kusal Mendis hit one straight to the fielder at deep mid-wicket to give Australia an opening. However, there was no stopping Nissanka.

Brief scores: Australia: 181 all out in 20 overs (Mitchell Marsh 54, Travis Head 56, Josh Inglis 27, Dushan Hemantha 3-37) It to Sri Lanka: 184/2 in 18 overs (Pathum Nissanka 100 n.o., Kusal Mendis 51, Pavan Rathnayake 28 n.o.) **Result:** SL won by 8 wickets. **PoM:** Pathum Nissanka.

Group B						
Teams	M	W	L	Pts	NRR	
Sri Lanka (Q)	3	3	0	6	2.462	
Zimbabwe	2	2	0	4	1.984	
Australia	3	1	2	2	0.414	
Ireland	3	1	2	2	0.150	
Oman	3	0	3	0	-4.546	

Zimbabwe look for Ireland scalp in Super 8s' surge

PALLEKELE (SRI LANKA), PTI

On a high after a stunning win over former champions Australia, Zimbabwe would look to continue the momentum against a tricky Ireland side and grab the chance to book a maiden Super Eight berth in the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday.

A win over Ireland will take Zimbabwe to six points and they will continue their unbeaten run, though a Super Eight spot from Group B will still not be guaranteed.

Australia -- currently on two points from two matches -- and Sri Lanka (on four points from two matches) can still reach to six points.



Blessing Muzarabani

LIVE 3 PM

Zimbabwe's final group match is against hosts Sri Lanka on February 19 in Colombo.

In that scenario, the net run rate (NRR) would be the deciding factor.

If Zimbabwe reach the Super Eight, that will be the first time they will progress to the stage in seven attempts.

The African nation has been clinical in the tournament so far.

Their three pacers Richard Ngarava, Blessing Muzarabani and Brad Evans ripped apart the Oman batting lineup with three wickets each, bowling the opposition out for just 103 in their opening match in Colombo.

Their batters, led by Brian Bennett (48 not out), needed just 13.3 overs to chase down the target for an eight-wicket win.

Zimbabwe then emerged as the giant-killers of the tournament.

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Their batters, led by Brian Bennett (48 not out), needed just 13.3 overs to chase down the target for an eight-wicket win.

Zimbabwe then emerged as the giant-killers of the tournament.

Afghanistan beat UAE to send Proteas through

NEW DELHI, PTI



Afghanistan's Azmatullah Omarzai celebrates after scoring the winning runs against the UAE in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

All-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai delivered a match-winning performance, claiming four wickets before smashing an unbeaten 40 to guide Afghanistan to a five-wicket victory over UAE in their must-win T20 World Cup clash here on Monday.

The win opened Afghanistan's account in the tournament and kept their slim Super Eight hopes alive in Group D. It also confirmed South Africa's place in the next round as they occupy the top spot with six points, followed by New Zealand in second place and Afghanistan in third. UAE slipped to fourth.

Omarzai led the bowling effort with superb control of

line and length, returning figures of 4 for 15 from his four overs as UAE posted 160 for 9, built around Sohaib Khan's well-crafted 68 off 48 balls.

In reply, Afghanistan suffered early setbacks as the inform Rahmanullah Gurbaz (0) and Gulbadin Naib (13) departed cheaply, leaving them at 41/2 at the end of the Powerplay.

Ibrahim Zadran steadied the innings with a composed 53, striking six boundaries and a six to anchor the chase. After his dismissal, Darwish Rasooli (33) and Omarzai combined to steer Afghanistan home.

Brief scores: UAE: 160/9 in 20 overs (Alishan Sharafu 40, Sohaib Khan 68, Azmatullah Omarzai 4-15, Mujeeb Ur Rahman 2-31) It to Afghanistan: 162/5 in 19.2 overs (Ibrahim Zadran 53, Darwish Rasooli 33, Azmatullah Omarzai 40 n.o., Junaid Siddique 2-23, Muhammad Arfan 2-30) **Result:** Afg won by 5 wickets. **PoM:** Azmatullah Omarzai.

Fearless Kishan took the game away: Hesson

KARACHI, PTI: Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson said "fearless" Ishan Kishan's marauding fifty was the difference between his side and India, and urged his players to rally after the heavy defeat in the marquee clash of the T20 World Cup here.

Led by Kishan's aggressive 77 off 40 balls, India trumped Pakistan by 61 runs in a Group A match here on Sunday night to seal a Super Eight berth.

"I think he's fearless. He's able to score on both sides of the ground. So, he's not just committed to the leg side. We know he's incredibly strong there, but he can reverse. So, if you've got spin, especially in the power play, it can be a challenge," Hesson said.



Mike Hesson

True to Hesson's words, Kishan scored 66 runs off 37 balls against Pakistan slow bowlers, spoiling their spin-heavy strategy on a slow Premadasa pitch.

Hesson admitted that Kishan's approach unsettled his spinners.

"I think the fact that he's in a rare vein of form, applied a lot of pressure to our spinners and probably took them away from the basics, which the pitch was actually doing a lot when we bowled nice and slow and into it, but outside of that, no one really scored better than a run a ball."

Kiwis aim to fix their powerplay problems

CHENNAI, PTI: New Zealand will look to address the frailties exposed by South Africa and reaffirm their status as title contenders by sealing a Super Eight berth when they face bottom-placed Canada in their final Group D fixture of the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday.

Having played a five-match T20I series in India just before the World Cup, the Black Caps entered the tournament fairly acclimated to subcontinental conditions. Comfortable wins against Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates only strengthened their belief.

However, the Kiwis received a reality check against a formidable South African unit. The seven-wicket defeat exposed weaknesses in every department, particularly with the bat.

New Zealand's powerplay struggles have been a recurring concern, with early wickets disrupting momentum and leaving the middle order to do the repair work.

Rachin Ravindra's form is another big worry for the side as the all-rounder, who is a crucial cog in New Zealand's top order, has failed to convert starts.

With the Super Eights approaching, the team management will hope he rediscovered his rhythm quickly.

With the ball, New Zealand failed to make early inroads against South Africa.

"We couldn't quite get that sort of 200 total that we wanted to get to. I think we weren't as good as we could be with the ball as well," New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell said.

LIVE 11 AM



Rachin Ravindra